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Japan

Japan: Hashimoto, Mondale Agree on Return of Okinawa Base

OW1204113696 Tokyo KYODO in English 1131 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Friday [12 April] the United States has agreed to return the land occupied by Futemma airfield in Okinawa to local landowners over a period of five to seven years.

The accord, reached after talks between Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale, are "an important achievement" in ongoing bilateral efforts to reduce the U.S. military presence in the southwestern island prefecture, the premier told a nationally televised news conference.

Japan: Premier Hashimoto Statement on Okinawan Marine Base

OW1204140996 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1100 GMT 12 Apr 96

[Statement by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at joint news conference with U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale in Tokyo — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hashimoto] Thank you very much for joining us. I requested the honor of the presence of Ambassador Mondale at this sudden news conference, in which we can announce an important achievement in the joint efforts by Japan and the United States regarding the bases problem in Okinawa. At the same time, I would like to address how I, as an individual who directly took part in these efforts, attach importance to the Japan-U.S. alliance. In our meeting held earlier this evening, Ambassador Mondale and I reached the following agreements:

Marine Corps Air Station [MCAS] Futenma should be completely returned over the next five-to-seven years, after the following actions are taken. Namely, we must maintain the very important capabilities and functions currently available by the presence of MCAS Futenma. To achieve this objective, new heliports should be constructed on U.S. bases already existing in Okinawa. Additional facilities should be provided on the Kadena Air Base in order to move some functions from Futenma. Air tankers currently stationed on Futenma—11 in all—should be moved to the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. In addition, almost the same number of Harrier fighters—vertical take-off and landing fighters that present a problem with their heavy engine noise—should be moved from Iwakuni to the mainland United States.

Moreover, we agreed to undertake a Japan-U.S. joint study on the U.S. forces' use of civilian facilities in Japan during emergency situations.

Details of these agreements will be ironed out in an interim package reviewing the direction of bases on Okinawa, which will be announced when the Special Action Committee on Okinawa, or SACO, meets on 15 April with the participation of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. Details of the action plan will be thoroughly studied before the final report is released later this fall.

This announcement could not have been possible without the extremely gracious support of both Ambassador Mondale and Commander of U.S. Forces Japan Richard Myers. When I met President Clinton in Santa Monica, I conveyed frankly to him the Okinawan people's sincere wishes for a return of MCAS Futenma. Immediately after that, active discussions began at SACO and other working-level talks between Japan and the United States. I would like to express my hearty appreciation for cooperation offered by Ambassador Mondale during that period.

I am telling all of you that tonight's agreement was the product of brave decisions by President Clinton and Defense Secretary Perry. This announcement is being made to comply with the sincere wishes of people in Okinawa as much as possible, and to clarify an intention of both Japan and the United States to make positive use of the bilateral security arrangements that contribute to stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Negotiations to reach this agreement were not easy for either Japan or the United States. I think the agreement was made possible by the two nations' strong belief that the Japan-U.S. security treaty is the best choice for both nations, and that the two nations should make the most of the bilateral security arrangement for stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

At the same time, the decision was made on the basis of strong demands from both the Okinawa Prefectural Government and local residents. I would like to stress; however, that while the agreement outlines a five-to-seven year timeframe, maximum cooperation from the prefectural government and all other concerned parties is indispensable in order to reach the objective. Taking this opportunity, I, as the prime minister, would like to express my hearty appreciation for the large number of people in Okinawa and other regions who bear the burden of the military bases to ensure the security for all Japan.

A few minutes ago, Ambassador Mondale and I spoke with Okinawan Governor Ota to inform him of our decision. Governor Ota welcomed our message, and I was relieved to obtain his commitment for the Okinawa Prefectural government's maximum cooperation in future actions to reach the goal.

In conclusion, I would like to note that we are receiving President Clinton as a state guest in a couple of days. I am looking forward to having an opportunity to discuss a new era in the Japan-U.S. alliance as we stand at the advent of the 21st century. I hope our shared sense of values and strong mutual confidence will offer a bright future for bilateral relations. I am certain that we will be able to reach our goals.

Japan, U.S. Unveil Accord on Return of Key Okinawa Base

OW1204123096 Tokyo KYODO in English
1221 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Japan and the United States announced Friday [12 April] they have agreed on the return of a key U.S. airfield in the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Okinawa within five to seven years, clearing a major hurdle in their base dispute.

The accord to return property used by the Futemma air station to local landowners was unveiled at a nationally televised joint news conference by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale at the premier's office following their meeting.

Hashimoto called the accord "an important achievement" and said the return of the air base will be realized with the transfer of Futemma's functions to the Kadena airfield in Okinawa, about 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, and to the Iwakuni base in western Japan.

The return of the Futemma base has been at the center of bilateral talks on how to consolidate and scale down U.S. military facilities in Okinawa prior to U.S. President Bill Clinton's three-day state visit to Japan from next Tuesday.

Under the accord, U.S. military facilities, including those in Okinawa and the Iwakuni base in Yamaguchi Prefecture, will be consolidated, but Mondale stressed that this will not undermine U.S. capabilities and readiness to ensure peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mondale said the U.S. regards its security partnership with Japan as very important. "We are determined to maintain it and strengthen it," he added.

The process of returning Futemma, though not easy, is the result of "energetic joint efforts" on both sides, he said, adding that "many other significant steps" will be taken to help reduce "irritations" among local people over noise and other problems associated with the U.S. bases.

Okinawa is home to about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in Japan by land area and about half of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan under the bilateral security arrangements.

Residents in Okinawa have long complained about the heavy U.S. military presence on their island but their outrage was recently fueled by the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawa schoolgirl last September for which three American servicemen were sentenced to prison terms last month.

Japan: Hashimoto Supports Bilateral Economic Talks With U.S.

OW1104121896 Tokyo KYODO in English
1204 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Thursday [11 April] that Japan-U.S. economic issues should be dealt with bilaterally rather than multilaterally, according to the policy panel chief of his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

In a meeting with Taku Yamasaki, chairman of the LDP Policy Affairs Research Council, Hashimoto ruled out the view of some government officials that such issues should be discussed multilaterally, including with the European Union, Yamasaki said.

"Negotiations between Japan and the United States are preferable. We have received such a proposal from working-level officials on the insurance issue, but I have instructed them to settle it on a bilateral basis," the premier was quoted as saying.

Hashimoto expressed a hope that the trade row over insurance will be settled by the time U.S. President Bill Clinton makes a state visit to Japan on April 16-18, apparently referring to insurance talks to reconvene Monday in Washington, Yamasaki told a group of reporters.

Concerning other Japan-U.S. economic issues, Hashimoto said the trade dispute over semiconductors can be settled by the two countries' private sectors.

Japan: Okinawa Vice Governor Views Base Relocation Plan

OW1204044096 Naha OKINAWA TIMES (Evening Edition) in Japanese 11 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been reported that the Sobe Communications Facility (known as the Elephant Cage) will be moved to Iejima island. Concerning this report, Vice Governor Masanori Yoshimoto stated: "We have not been informed at all. Since there is no way to confirm the report, I cannot make any comments until everything is clarified." However, he added: "Even if there is such a plan, the prefectural government insists on its demand for complete return, not relocation within the prefecture." In this way, Yoshimoto stated his doubts about the government plan.

Moreover, Vice Governor Yoshimoto stated: "We have persisted in asking for the complete return. Such measures will never be accepted by any cities, towns or villages. That is the very reason why we have worked out an action program for base returns based on an accord with local cities, towns, and villages. There will be no prospects for the first stage of the action program that will end in 2001. The plan for relocation within the prefecture is not what we have asked." Thus, Yoshimoto stated his critical views that the plan does not conform to the prefectural government's action program, and that the local people's intentions are not reflected in the plan.

On the other hand, Kazuyoshi Umemoto, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Security Section, who is involved in consultations at the Japan-U.S. Special Action Committee (SACO), avoided making any concrete remarks on the plan for relocating the Sobe Facility to Iejima island. He said: "Regarding the Sobe Communication Facility, various ideas have been brought up (at the SACO sessions)."

Japan: Hashimoto Refutes Report on Return of Futenma Base

OW1204031196 Tokyo KYODO in English 0225 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Japan and the United States have agreed to return to landowners property used for a key U.S. air base in the southwestern Japanese island prefecture of Okinawa within five years, a major economic daily reported Friday.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said in a front-page dispatch from Washington that the return of land occupied by the Futenma Air Base will be implemented with a transfer of the base's function to the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa Prefecture, about 1,000 kilometers southwest of Tokyo.

The return of land for the Futenma base has been at the center of bilateral negotiations on how to consolidate and reduce U.S. Okinawa military facilities being carried out prior to President Bill Clinton's state visit to Japan on April 16-18.

Under the agreement, U.S. military facilities, including those in Okinawa Prefecture and the Iwakuni base in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, will be consolidated, paving the way to cut part of U.S. troops in Okinawa Prefecture, the daily said.

The agreement also calls for an early return of land occupied by the Sobe communications facility in the island prefecture, part of which has been used by the Japanese Government for the U.S. military without any legal basis since April 1 when a related lease contract expired and the landowner refused to renew the contract, the newspaper said.

Okinawa Prefecture is home to about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in Japan and nearly half of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan under the bilateral security pact.

Okinawa people have long complained about the huge U.S. military presence on their island and their outrage has been fueled by the rape of a 12-year-old Okinawa schoolgirl last September for which three U.S. servicemen were sentenced to prison terms.

Asked about the newspaper report, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, the top government spokesman, said Japan and the U.S. are discussing the finer points of the Okinawa base issues, but he declined to elaborate.

At a cabinet meeting Friday morning, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto refuted the NIHON KEIZAI report, officials said.

"I hope it turns out that way" but the current situation does not warrant the return of Futenma, he told his cabinet.

Japan: Agreement With U.S. To Relocate Refueling Unit Noted

OW1204025696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0239 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Japan and the United States have agreed on the relocation of an airborne refueling squadron from the Futenma Base in Okinawa Prefecture to the Iwakuni Airfield in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, government sources said Friday [12 April].

The squadron consists of 12 KC-130 airborne refueling planes. The Futenma Air Base has been at the center of bilateral negotiations on how to consolidate and reduce U.S. military facilities on the southwestern Japanese island prefecture.

Under the agreement reached between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. Ambassador Walter Mondale, the U.S. will move some of the Harrier attack planes from the Iwakuni Base to the U.S., the sources said.

The agreement will be incorporated in an interim report on how to consolidate and reduce U.S. military facilities in Japan that will be adopted by a cabinet-level Japanese-U.S. security affairs panel, they said.

The interim report is expected to mention continued efforts to scale down the Futenma Air Base, aircraft noise from which has been the target of criticism from local residents.

Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota has demanded the dismantling of the Futenma Air Base.

Okinawa Prefecture accounts for less than 1 percent of Japan's total land area, but it hosts about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities and nearly half the 47,000 U.S. troops in Japan.

Japan: Okinawa Governor Asks To Talk With Clinton

OW1104141396 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, April 11 KYODO — The Okinawa prefectural government has unofficially asked the United States to allow Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota to hold talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton during his visit to Tokyo on April 16-18, a senior prefectural government official said Thursday [11 April].

The likelihood for such Ota-Clinton direct talks is very slim, however, although the local government stressed the importance of giving Ota an opportunity to express his desire for scaling down the U.S. military presence in Okinawa, the official said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, also said Ota is considering whether he should accept an invitation to attend a luncheon for Clinton to be held in Tokyo on April 18 under the sponsorship of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

The official hinted that the Okinawa prefectural government has begun final arrangements toward accepting the invitation for the luncheon, saying, "we will lose the chance if we do not decide this week."

The outcry among Okinawa residents over the heavy U.S. military presence has been ignited by the abduction and the rape of a 12-year-old school girl last September for which three U.S. servicemen were convicted in March.

About 75 percent of all land used by the U.S. military in Japan is concentrated in the southernmost prefecture, which accounts for only 0.6 percent of Japan's total area.

On April 1, Ota took up a legal battle with the central government to the supreme court over the continued use of local land by the U.S. military despite landowners' opposition.

Ota filed an appeal with the top court against the March 25 decision at the Naha branch of the Fukuoka High Court, ordering Ota to sign the necessary documents to force 35 landowners in Okinawa Prefecture, southwestern Japan, to continue leasing 35,000 square meters of land to the U.S. military.

Ota's signature was needed as both the landowners and the heads of the Okinawa municipalities where the landowners live refused to sign the documents themselves.

In December, then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama filed a suit against Ota to force the governor to comply with the central government's wishes.

Officials from the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, designated by Hashimoto, completed the signing of the necessary documents after Ota rejected the court order.

Japan: Okinawa Panel Holds First Meeting on U.S. Land Use

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, April 12 KYODO — A prefectural committee charged with land expropriation held its first meeting Friday [12 April] to discuss whether to approve a central government request for emergency use of a land plot in a U.S. military facility whose lease expired at the end of last month.

The Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee, an independent body consisting of seven local lawyers and scholars, has the right to permit emergency land use for up to six months.

It is unlikely that the committee will make an early decision on the case involving a 236-square-meter plot lying within the Sobe communications facility as the committee members agree that much time should be spent debating it, sources familiar with the committee said.

All committee members are those named by Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota, who is now in a court battle with the central government over his refusal to sign documents needed for the continued forced rental of land to the U.S. military.

The Defense Facilities Administration Agency filed an application late last month to seek approval by the expropriation committee for a six-month emergency use of the plot owned by Shoichi Chibana, a 47-year-old grocer.

The central government has had the U.S. military continue to use the land without any clear legal basis since April 1, the day after a related lease contract expired.

Central government officials say the continued use is justified under the Japanese Government's obligation in the Japan-U.S. security pact to provide land for U.S. bases.

Chibana has refused to renew the contract and filed a suit earlier this month demanding the U.S. military vacate his land.

Japan: Okinawa Official on Approval of Emergency Land Use

OW1204093796 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Naha, Japan, April 12 KYODO — The head of an Okinawa prefectural committee suggested Friday [12 April] that it will not make a quick decision on whether to approve a central government request for emergency use of a land plot in a U.S. military facility whose lease contract expired at the end of last month.

Kenyu Nishi, the head of the Okinawa Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee, make the indication in a press conference after it held its first meeting to discuss the central government request.

The committee, an independent body consisting of seven local lawyers and scholars, decided to conduct a field survey at the Sobe communications facility April 18 and to hold a second meeting April 20.

Nishi said it is unlikely the committee will reach an agreement in the next meeting.

"I cannot predict when (the committee will make a decision) until after we conduct the field survey and listen to both (central government and the landowner) claims," Nishi said.

In Tokyo, Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama criticized the panel's decision to meet in late April as failing to take account of the government's urgent need for permission to use the land.

The government filed a request with Okinawa's Prefectural Land Expropriation Committee to permit emergency use of the land for six months pending completion of a series of legal procedures enabling the use of the 236-square-meter plot lying within the Sobe communications facility.

The plot is owned by Shoichi Chibana, a 47-year-old grocer, who has refused to rent his land to the U.S. military.

The central government has allowed the U.S. military to continue to use the land without any clear legal basis since April 1, the day after the lease contract expired.

Central government officials say the continued use is justified under the Japanese Government's obligation in the Japan-U.S. security pact to provide land for U.S. bases.

Defense Facilities Administration Agency officials and Chibana will attend the next committee meeting to make their claims, committee members said.

The property wrangling goes back to last September, when Okinawa Gov. Ota refused to sign documents needed for the continued forced lease of land to the U.S. military following public outcry over the rape of a local elementary schoolgirl for which three U.S. servicemen have been sentenced to prison terms.

On March 28, Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto signed documents needed for continuing forced land leasing on behalf of Ota, who defied a court order to do so. Ota has filed an appeal with the supreme court against the order.

The southwestern Japan island prefecture of Okinawa hosts about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in Japan in terms of land space, although it accounts for less than 1 percent of Japan's total land area.

Japan: Border Islands 'Trust' U.S. Forces for Security

OW1104145896 Tokyo TOKYO SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 10 Apr 96 p 1

[First in series of articles entitled "Study on Security and Okinawa": "No Answer to Concern of Islanders—Government Losing Public Trust in Border Town"; by social reporter Shigeru Handa]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was just before dawn. A man carrying a lunch box and a water bottle jumped on a small fishing boat. He said: "To the old fishing grounds? No, it is too dangerous there."

Yonaguni Island is the westmost point of Japanese territory. From Tokyo to Yonaguni, I had to change planes two times, at Naha and Ishigaki Airports. The island is far, even from Okinawa, but is only 125 kilometers from Taiwan. Even car radios easily pick up Chinese broadcasts. This small island, with a population of only 1,800, has been under "military threats" for two years.

Drastic Drop in Fish Catch

In August 1994, Taiwan started live-fire exercises in the open sea off Yonaguni. The area was Yonaguni's best fishing ground to make a good catch of the snappers favored in the market. Taiwan's exercises are conducted 17 days a month. Fishermen had to give up the fishing ground and began to catch tuna at other fishing grounds.

This immediately affected the island's fishing business. High-priced fish disappeared from the market, and tuna prices drastically dropped, due to oversupply. The annual earnings of Yonaguni fishermen dropped to 70 million yen, compared with 120 million before the exercises.

In addition, China's missile exercises began on 8 March. The exercises were seemingly aimed at influencing the outcome of Taiwan's presidential election, but the impact area was only 60 km northwest of Yonaguni. It is believed China's medium-range ballistic missile "M-9" could miss its target anywhere within a 50-km radius of the target, and this really scared the Yonaguni people. An aftereffect of the Chinese exercises is seen in the fact that some fishermen still do not go fishing, even after the exercises.

Seizo Irinaka, Mayor of Yonaguni, severely criticized the government's response, saying: "The government did nothing, saying 'It is an exercise conducted on the open sea.' Probably the government thinks Yonaguni is not a part of Japan." Yoshikane Otsuji, head of the Yonaguni fishermen's co-op, noted, "U.S. forces are more trustworthy, because the Self-Defense Forces did nothing for us, but the U.S. forces sent aircraft carriers."

In June 1995, Otsuji requested the Foreign Ministry and the Okinawa Development Agency to persuade Taiwan to change the training zone; however, they flatly rejected the request for help, saying, "We cannot do anything because we do not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan." Yonaguni's trust is placed on the U.S. forces rather than the Japanese Government. "But...[ellipses as published]" Mayor Irinaka continued.

Suspicion About U.S. Behavior

Prior to the missile exercise, China reportedly conveyed to the United States that it has no intention of taking military action against Taiwan. However, the United States dispatched two fleets led by aircraft carriers to waters off Taiwan. Mayor Irinaka cannot dispel a suspicion that U.S. forces might use the exercise to demonstrate "the need for a U.S. presence to maintain security in the Far East."

Senior Defense Agency officials specializing in U.S. affairs have recently released similar analyses. If this is true, we cannot say people in Yonaguni really welcome the U.S. presence. The only thing we see is the Japanese Government's "lack of sense" on security issues, evident in its indifferent attitude toward the concerns of Yonaguni's people.

Meanwhile, China's military exercises became an "unfavorable wind" for Okinawa's demand for "removal of U.S. bases." I surveyed moves on U.S. bases before and after the Chinese exercises.

Kadena Air Base [KAB] is known as the largest U.S. Air Force base in the Far East. On 6 March, or two days before China's missile exercise, 14 Harrier fighters came to KAB from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. A remote surveillance plane, RC-135S, arrived at KAB from the mainland United States on 7 March and immediately started reconnaissance missions.

During that period, 13 U.S. Marine Corps amphibious vehicles landed at Naha Military Port, a U.S. Army facility which has been seldom used since the Gulf war. Brisk activity in the port seemed quite unusual to local people.

Kadena Municipal Assembly member Koei Tanaka, a watcher of U.S. bases on Okinawa, said: "Civilian areas around KAB suffered from loud noise from jet engine maintenance. Apparently, KAB operations were activated in response to the tension in China-Taiwan relations." U.S. bases in Okinawa were strained, just as during the Vietnam and Gulf wars.

Tensions around Japan immediately hit Okinawa. This is because Article VI of the Japan-U.S. security treaty allows U.S. Forces Japan [USFJ] to carry on operations in preparation for emergency situations in the Far East, and 75 percent of USFJ facilities are concentrated in Okinawa.

The government's official posture is that the definition of "the Far East" in Article VI is "the Philippines and northward areas, Japan, and its neighboring areas"; however, it actually meant the former Soviet Union and nations supported by the former Soviet Union. Thus, "responses to the Far East situation" have been discussed in direct connection with "defense of Japan."

Definition of the Far East

Meanwhile, the definition of the "Far East" is going to change, through "updating" of the Japan-U.S. security ties. An updated definition of the "Far East" will just indicate all nations and areas in the region. But the United States is keeping an eye on China in particular. The question is whether U.S. military action on the pretext of "peace and stability of Asia and the Pacific" really benefits "defense of Japan."

Japan intends to divert public attention from the changing role of bilateral security ties and to give logistics support for the USFJ through revising the "guidelines for Japan-U.S. defense cooperation" and concluding the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA). In this regard, Japan's course of action after adoption of the "updated" alliance with the United States will be an exercise of collective defense rights.

Yoshikazu Tamaki, an Okinawa Prefectural Assembly member who promoted an 85,000-person demonstration on Okinawa in October 1995, noted, "If a war breaks out in the Far East, Okinawa would become an attacker, as the host of U.S. bases, and also a victim, as a counterattack target." Tamaki stressed that the danger of involvement in undesired wars is the reality of "being in the front-line of a security system," and said: "The "updating" is apparently a reinforcement of the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. The public does not support it."

The relationship of trust between the government and the public is now in question.

Japan: U.S. Helicopter Said To Have Fired Near Fishing Boats

OW1204053196 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 11 Apr 96 Evening Edition p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Nago — At around 1230 [0330 GMT] on 8 April, a shot was fired into the water near two tuna-fishing boats operating near the "Payao" [rocky place under the water where fish tend to gather] owned by the Nago Fishermen's Cooperative Association approximately 40 kilometers off the coast of Henoko, Nago. The live shot is believed to have been fired from a machine gun. This was disclosed by a group of Nago City assembly members on the morning of 11 April when the group visited the Naha Defense Facilities Administrative Bureau [DFAB] to request a thorough investigation into the recent PCB [polychlorinated biphenyl] contamination case.

The shot passed over the boats and cause a column of water to erupt about 100 meters behind the fishing boats.

It is believed that the shot was fired from one of two helicopters, which appeared to belong to the U.S. forces. A captain (aged 42), who was in the fishing operation, said: "This is the first time that a shot was fired in this way. I tremble at the thought that the shot might have hit us. I heard a loud sound like 'shh...' [ellipses as received] after a bang. The shot passed over the boats."

In this connection, 12 Nago City assembly members, including Vice Speaker Takehiro Toguchi — who visited the Naha DFAB on the morning of 11 April — asked for a thorough investigation into the case. The group said: "This is a serious matter that threatens the safety of fishermen. We hope that relevant facts will be clarified as soon as possible." Ryoei Tamai, chief of the Naha DFAB's liaison and coordination unit, said: "This is news to us. We would like to ask the U.S. forces about the case in order to confirm the relevant facts and take proper measures."

Japan: Fishing Boats Reportedly in U.S. Training Area

OW1204063696 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO (Morning Edition) in Japanese 12 Apr 96 p 29

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the 8 April incident where a shot was fired near two local fishing boats, the 11th Regional Maritime Safety Headquarters [RMSH] of the Maritime Safety Agency asked the Nago Fishermen's Cooperative Association for details of the 11 April incident to confirm relevant facts. The fisheries association reportedly told the 11 RMSH that the two boats appeared to have been within the site reserved for U.S. forces' exercises. This was revealed when the association pointed out on a marine chart the location of the two boats at the time of the incident.

The 11th RMSH issues every week the "Suiro Tsuho" [sailing pamphlet] that details information like the schedules for U.S. forces' exercises in order to ensure the safety of ships and boats in the region. The 13 March issue of the pamphlet reported that the U.S. forces would conduct fire and air raid exercises within the U.S. forces' training zone called "Hotel Hotel" between 0600 and 2000 [local time] from 1 April through 30 April.

According to the 11 RMSH, the pamphlets had been sent to various fisheries cooperative associations in Okinawa through the Okinawa Federation of Fisheries Cooperative Associations.

Japan: Foreign Ministry Comments on Asian Security

OW1204065196 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 12 Apr 96

[Japan's position on "Security" carried on the "Q & A on Japan-U.S. Relations" link of the special Clinton visit home page]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Japan-U.S. relationship is the most important bilateral relationship in the world, not just for Japan and the United States, but for the world at large as well. President Clinton reaffirmed this during his February meeting with Prime Minister Hashimoto, saying to the effect that no bilateral relationship was more important than the Japan-U.S. relationship. The good relations between Japan and the United States, the two countries which share the fundamental values of freedom and democracy, are not only indispensable to Japan's peace and prosperity, but are important for international peace and prosperity as well.

The Japan-U.S. security arrangements form the foundation for the broad Japan-U.S. relationship. Dr. Joseph S. Nye Jr., then Assistant Secretary of Defense, stated before the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on September 4, 1995: "Our alliance with Japan provides more than security. It is the foundation of the broader U.S.-Japan relationship—a unique and vital partnership...." [ellipses as received]

Japan will firmly maintain the Japan-U.S. security arrangements. The security arrangements, based on which the U.S. Forces are stationed in Japan, remain essential for the peace and stability in this post-Cold War Era. The Japan-U.S. Security arrangements also form the foundation for the two countries' wide-ranging cooperative relations in the international community. Incidentally, the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty stipulates that both countries shall cooperate in political and economic matters (Article 2). The Japan-U.S. security arrangements are an indispensable pillar for ensuring peace and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region as well, because the arrangements support the presence of the United States, which serves as a stabilizing factor in this region. Secretary of Defense William Perry stated: "Our alliance remains the foundation, the linchpin of regional stability and of the U.S. security strategy for the Asia-Pacific region." (The Japan National Press Club, November 1, 1995.)

Q: What is the significance of the U.S. continuing to station its forces in Japan now that the Cold War is over?

A: Even though the Cold War is now over, a number of destabilizing factors and unpredictability still remain within East Asia and the international community at large. In addition to the existence of massive military forces, including nuclear arsenals, the Asia-Pacific region shows the fastest growth in military spending in the world. In addition, there exist problems in the region such as the issues of nuclear weapons development by North Korea and conflicting territorial claims in the South China Sea. Peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region benefit the security interests of the United States and Japan, and the important role played by the U.S. presence in the region is a stabilizing factor for which there is no substitute. The ASEAN member and other countries in the region also welcome this U.S. presence and hope it to continue. The U.S. Government states in the East Asian Security Report (EASR) published in February last year: "If the American presence in Asia were removed, the security of Asia would be imperiled, with consequences for Asia and America alike. Our ability to affect the course of events would be constrained, our markets and our interests would be jeopardized. To benefit from the growth and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, the United States must remain fully engaged economically, diplomatically, and militarily."

Q: What is Japan itself doing to ensure its peace and security?

A: While strongly maintaining the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, Japan has built up an appropriate level of its own defense capabilities. Japan undertook a major review of its defense program in the wake of the end of the Cold War, and set forth its defense policies in the National Defense Program Outline in and after FY1996, and in the Mid-Term Defense Plan (FY1996-2000), under which Japan will spend a total of 25.15 trillion yen on defense in the five year period from FY1996 to FY2000 (the corresponding amount for the previous five-year period of FY1991-1995 was 22.17 trillion yen).

Q: What type of cooperation takes place between Japan and the U.S. and on equipment and technology?

A: Under the Japan-U.S. security arrangements, Japan and the United States are advancing cooperation on equipment (co-development of F-2, license production of F-15, Patriot etc.) and on defense-related technology (joint research on Advanced Steels, Ducted Rocket Engines, Ceramic Engines for Military Vehicles, etc.). In addition, they are seriously studying new subjects such as ballistic missile defense, etc.

Q: What is Japan doing to support the stationing of U.S. troops in Japan?

A: Japan provides support to the stationing of the U.S. troops in various ways. One example is Japan's provision of about 380 square miles (134 facilities and areas) to be used by the U.S. forces. Japan also makes payments totaling about $6 billion to offset the costs of stationing U.S. forces in Japan, including the cost for Japanese labor on the bases (amounting to about $120,000 annually for each U.S. serviceman or woman [1994]). In the EASR, the U.S. Government states: "Japan supplies by far the most generous host nation support of any of our allies."

Q: What is Japan's basic policy for United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations?

A: Japan has actively participated in the United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations for peaceful resolution of regional conflicts, which have emerged as a major challenge for the international community in the post-Cold War era. In the future, Japan will continuously contribute to the Peace-Keeping Operations through dispatch of its personnel, assistance both in kinds and funds.

Since the enactment of the International Peace Cooperation Law in 1992, Japan has sent its Self-Defense Forces and other personnel to Angola, Cambodia, Mozambique, El-Salvador and the Golan Heights. In Cambodia, they engage in the peace-keeping activities of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which help establish new, free, and democratic Cambodia. Japan also conducted international humanitarian relief operation for Rwandan refugees such as medical services, sanitation, water supply, and airlifts.

In February 1996, Japan dispatched 45 members of the Self-Defense Forces to the United Nations Disengagement Observers Force (UNDOF), which has been deployed to supervise the cease-fire on the Golan Heights. Japan's participation in UNDOF is welcomed by the Government of Syria and Israel as well as the international community.

Q: Will Japan acquire nuclear weapons?

A: Japan is the only country which has ever suffered from the atomic bombs, and the people of Japan have special sentiment with regard to nuclear weapons. Therefore, it is totally unthinkable for Japan to acquire nuclear weapons. Japan firmly maintains the Three Non-Nuclear Principles that prohibit the nation from possessing, producing or introducing onto its territory any nuclear weapons.

Furthermore, a nuclear option would only destabilize the international environment surrounding Japan, which would clearly be against Japan's national interest.

Japan is pursuing peaceful use of atomic energy. Japan's utilization of atomic energy is strictly limited to the peaceful purposes by its participation in international regimes such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and by the Atomic Energy Basic Law and other related domestic laws. Japan has fully implemented the full-scope safe guards of International Atomic Energy Agency.

As was clarified in the 1994 Long-term Program for Research, Development, and Utilization of Nuclear Energy, Japan will firmly adhere to its policy of not holding surplus plutonium. In order to ensure the transparency of its plutonium utilization, it makes public each year the amount of existing separated plutonium. Further, Japan has been actively participating in the creation of a framework on the international plutonium management.

Japan Urges Plan Revision on Shifting U.S. Parachute Drills

OW1104135296 Tokyo KYODO in English 1329 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO — Japan has proposed revising a plan to relocate U.S. military parachute exercises at an airfield in Okinawa Prefecture because of opposition over noise and environmental factors at the proposed alternative site, government sources said Thursday [11 April].

The sources said the government has suggested to the United States that instead of Camp Hansen in Ginoza village, as agreed by a joint U.S.-Japan committee in May last year, the exercises now held at Yomitan auxiliary airfield should be shifted to another U.S. military base elsewhere in the southernmost Japanese prefecture.

Opponents of the plan to move the exercises to Camp Hansen say it would necessitate cutting trees within the camp boundary, causing soil erosion, the sources said.

Opponents also object to the noise from helicopters used in the exercises, they said.

If a special joint action committee now in the final stages of its deliberations on ways to reduce and consolidate U.S. bases in Okinawa can agree to the proposal, the government wants it included in a midterm report to be decided on at a meeting of Japan's foreign minister and Defense Agency director general and the U.S. Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense.

That April 15 meeting is part of the so-called "two-plus-two" security dialogue on U.S.-Japan security arrangements.

The return of the Yomitan auxiliary airfield was agreed to at a summit meeting in January last year between U.S.

President Bill Clinton and then Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

Okinawa, about 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, hosts about 75 percent of U.S. military facilities in Japan in terms of land space, although it accounts for less than 1 percent of Japan's total land area.

The prefectural government has called for a reduction in the heavy U.S. base presence. The move was prompted by the abduction and rape of a 12-year-old schoolgirl last September by three U.S. servicemen who were convicted in March.

Japan: Editorial on U.S. Security Arrangements

OW1204033596 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 11 Apr 96 p 5

[Editorial: "Study on Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements — Japan Must Present Its Own Diplomatic Decisions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Bill Clinton, during the U.S. President's visit to Japan beginning 16 April, will be very important — even more important than the 1981 summit between Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and President Ronald Reagan — and will mark a historic turning point in the terms of the bilateral security arrangements.

The joint communique from Suzuki and Reagan 15 years ago referred to Japan and the United States for the first time as "allies." The statement effectively transformed the security relationship from bilateral cooperation centered upon the "defense of Japan" by the United States into a structure that had Japan taking on some of the U.S. strategy for dealing with the Soviet Union in the intensifying Cold War atmosphere that developed after the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Since then, Japan has rushed headlong into advancing its sea lane defenses, increasing its defense budget, and in taking on more of the costs associated with stationing U.S. troops here.

Japan Depends on the U.S. Strategy

The joint statement that Hashimoto and Clinton have been preparing to be released after their talks makes these points:

1) There are unstable elements in the Asia-Pacific region in the post-Cold War period, including restlessness on the Korean Peninsula, the presence of a major power with nuclear arms, and territorial disputes.

2) The Japan-U.S. security relationship contributes not only to peace and security in Japan and the Far East, but to stability in the region, and to that end, the United States will maintain its present 100,000-member troop strength in the region.

3) Japan and the United States will examine the extent of mutual defense cooperation appropriate to the post-Cold War era.

Clearly, the Clinton administration's East Asia strategy is incorporated almost untouched into the draft. The U.S. position is obvious. It intends to preserve its own political influence and its economic interests by demonstrating its capability to deter and deal with conflicts.

Considering Japan's geographic relationship with both the United States and Asian nations, and given its economic and technological strengths, the cooperation of Japan as America's ally is to be the basis of that strategy. The United States must have Japan as a continuing stronghold from which it can deploy its military might in the Asia-Pacific region. And the mechanism for that strategy is the security relationship thus "redefined."

How is Prime Minister Hashimoto to respond to President Clinton's notions? The significance of the summit will lie precisely in how that response is framed.

High-level government officials and politicians of the ruling coalition parties and the opposition New Frontier Party cite the risks of rising tension on the Korean Peninsula and uncertainty clouding the Taiwan Strait when they argue that Japan can be comfortable only if American troops are deployed in the region. They continue to emphasize that if the American people become dissatisfied with Japan's less-than-wholehearted cooperation, and a rift develops between the two nations, the whole relationship, including economic ties, would be shattered.

Such an argument is far too simplistic. Missing is Japan's own view of how the joint document should alter the substance of mutual security relations and Japan's part in them, and whether Japan is to simply endorse the U.S. strategy for secure peace in the region.

Expansion of Area Subject To Bilateral Security Arrangements

The joint document includes two important points that are tantamount to a revision of the Japan-U.S. security treaty.

One is the expansion of the geographical area encompassed in the treaty. The security treaty explicitly states that Japan is to provide military bases for the U.S. troops to benefit peace and security in the Far East. The Japanese government has traditionally held the view that the bounds of the "Far East" to which American military resources can be mobilized from Japan is the area close to Japan, from the Philippines and the area north to include Taiwan and South Korea.

It is not clear, however, what area is meant in the joint document's reference to "the Asia-Pacific region."

The Clinton administration's (Nye initiative) report on the East Asia defense strategy refers to deployment of U.S. military components in the Indian Ocean and for the defense of the sea lanes up to the Persian Gulf. In the Persian Gulf War, U.S. Marines from Okinawa and the aircraft carrier task force based at Yokosuka in Kanagawa Prefecture performed important missions.

Confirmation at the summit by the two leaders of the continued presence of forward-deployed American military components in Japan, maintained at about the level prevailing in the Cold War years, amounts to formal endorsement of the already-established long-range movement by U.S. troops. The Foreign Ministry is far from persuasive in its explanation that, while the area covered by the treaty is limited to the Far East, the deterrent effect extends throughout Asia and the Pacific.

Another important point is the proposed examination of the new Japan-U.S. defense cooperation.

The summit will also be a point for the Japanese and American governments to sign a mutual agreement on providing logistical and supply support, such as fuel and other material, without restrictions during joint exercises. The governments also intend to review the 1978 bilateral guidelines on defense cooperation and study the possibility of new guidelines that would anticipate contingencies in the Far East, including those that could arise on the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Strait.

The questions to be considered in the review deal with the extent of logistical support, such as the limits to mutual base use or searching for floating mines, that can be provided by Japan to the United States under established Japanese laws, and how these laws need to be amended to legitimize port and airport use by U.S. troops.

These are all points on which the Japanese Government has so far been cautious, and a clear line must be established for the limits of such review. The government should present its findings to the public after careful examination of the issues in relation to national interests, and seek the opinions of the people.

Some political and business leaders even insist that the government should change its traditional interpretation of the Constitution, which prohibits the right to collective defense, to allow military action by the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] to defend U.S. troops in an emergency.

Purely defensive capability is a national commitment that could even be considered part of the Constitution itself. The argument for scrapping that principle to ease dispatch of SDF contingents abroad threatens neighboring nations and enhances regional tension, thus ultimately harming Japan's national interests.

Japan's National Interests Should Be Sought from Medium-To-Long Term Perspectives

What should Japan propose to the United States?

First, the two nations should review future security in Asia in medium-and-long-range perspectives.

Neither the Korean Peninsula nor the circumstances involving China will be the same in five or 10 years. If the Korean Peninsula stabilizes, U.S. troops in the region will be scaled back. What Clinton and Hashimoto must really coordinate is the diplomacy needed to transform instability into stability, leading to circumstances that do not warrant recourse to security arrangements. A new security framework that involves China must also be brought quickly to fruition.

Second, Japan must clearly state its position in the conduct of security arrangements.

Since the end of the Cold War, international security interests have become increasingly fragmented. The security relationship between Japan and the United States will perform to the satisfaction of people in both nations only if the two nations coordinate their relative positions on security within common objectives.

To do that, the provisions for "prior consultation" must be given substance. It has been confirmed by both governments that combat operations involving U.S. troops from Japan are subject to prior consultation between the governments. Many Japanese know, however, that such consultation has been a myth until now. That gap in security relations must be closed.

No breakthrough will be found in the problems associated with the overwhelming base presence in Okinawa, not without political decisions that put priority upon the long-term bilateral relationship, not only upon the defense relationship.

Finally, confidence among neighboring nations must be enhanced to establish a basis for security and diplomacy.

Japan has been so close to the United States since the end of World War II that it has not fully considered cooperation with other nations in Asia on an equal footing. That has been a negative factor in the Japan-U.S. security relationship. Japan should seek common understanding of history with those nations, resolve issues that involve individual wartime compensation claims, and prove definitively that it has no military intentions beyond those exclusively for defense needs. The friendship between Japan and the United States will stand on much more solid ground if Japan does this.

Japan: Usui Notes Need for Study of ACSA for Emergencies

OW1104143996 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 11 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Agency [DA] Director General Hideo Usui commented on the scope of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) — which is shortly to be concluded between Japan and the United States — at the 10 April lower house Budget Committee meeting. He said: "The question of what specific action (in regard to supporting U.S. forces) can be taken by the Self-Defense Forces (in an emergency in the Far East) is a matter that needs to be thoroughly studied." In this way, Usui hinted that in the future, Japan should widen the scope of the ACSA to include its application during emergencies by revising the ACSA and through other means. He made the remarks in response to questions by Yoneo Hirata (a member of the New Frontier Party).

Japan: Minister To Sign Cargo Sector Accord With U.S.

OW1204040396 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Transport Minister Yoshiyuki Kamei said Friday [12 April] he will sign a final document on the agreement in the cargo sector of Japan-U.S. civil aviation talks before the summit meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Kamei made the remark at a press conference after a cabinet meeting.

Kamei is expected to sign the document Monday or Tuesday after U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena signs the document in the United States.

Clinton is scheduled to visit Japan from Tuesday to Thursday.

Japan: MITI Head Comments on Ford-Mazda Deal, U.S. Summit

OW1204032096 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — International Trade and Industry Minister Shumpei Tsukahara said Friday [12 April] the decision by Ford Motor Co. of the United States to take Mazda Motor Co. under its wing is a good development in a global economic context.

Noting he has yet to grasp details of the Ford-Mazda deal, Tsukahara told reporters, "It's a good story at a time when global economic relations are stepping in a new direction toward free and fair competition based on international rules."

Under the deal, Ford will boost its equity stake in the flagging Japanese automaker to 33.4 percent from the current 24.4 percent. Henry Wallace, Mazda vice president and Ford transferee, is expected to replace Yoshihiro Wada as president of the firm.

Tsukahara said the Japan-U.S. auto trade agreement struck last June had ended the days of confrontation in the industry, ushering in a new era of rule-based discussion.

"(This type of deal) would have been found somewhat upsetting a decade ago, but now an atmosphere is emerging in which it can be received favorably," Tsukahara said.

Meanwhile, Tsukahara said it will not be known until the last minute whether semiconductors and photographic film will be on the agenda of next Wednesday's summit between Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Tokyo.

Microchips and photo film as well as insurance are the three remaining trade issues in which the U.S. has urged progress before Clinton's visit to Tokyo next week.

Regarding semiconductors, Tsukahara said politicians might not have a role to play because Japanese and U.S. semiconductor industries are now negotiating a partnership in a positive mood.

Washington is calling for the renewal of the 1991 Japan-U.S. chip accord, while Tokyo argues no more government involvement in the industry is necessary, given the growing presence of foreign semiconductors in the Japanese market.

Japan: Ministry Holds News Conference on Worldwide Issues

OW1004121796 (Internet) Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs WWW in English 9 Apr 96

[News conference by Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto with unidentified reporters on 9 April; place not given; from the "What's New!" link]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Topics of Discussion]

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I. Upcoming Second Donors' Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina To Be Held in Brussels

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. The upcoming Second Donors' Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina will be held in Brussels on 12 and 13 April. The World Bank estimates that about US$5.1 billion will be needed for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1996 and 1999. At the Second Donors' Conference, a concrete commitment for 1996 is expected, and the target of the commitment will be around US$1.8 billion. Last January, the Japanese Government announced the extension of US$50 million-worth of emergency reconstruction aid to Bosnia and Herzegovina through the Japan Fund established in the World Bank — out of which, US$9 million have already been disbursed. In addition to this, last March, the Japanese Government also announced the extension of 2.5 billion yen, or around US$25 million-worth of non-project-type grant aid for balance of payments purposes. The Japanese Government is now contemplating sending high-level representatives to the Second Donors' Conference. Yesterday in Tokyo, Minister for Foreign Affairs Yukihiko Ikeda met High Representative for the Peace Implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina Carl Bildt, the senior coordinator on Bosnia and Herzegovina aid, and stated that the Japanese Government will announce an appropriate aid package at the Second Meeting. When Japan enters the stage of implementing concrete projects, we think that the bilateral projects which will be announced at the Second Meeting should contribute to the reconciliation of the Muslim Croatian and the Serbian peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this sense, projects in such areas as electricity, transport, telecommunications, etc., which can be laid upon both entities, will be desirable.

This is the announcement that I wanted to make, and I will be delighted to respond to any questions that you might have.

II. Alleged Smuggling of Chemical Weapons Material From Japan to North Korea

Q: The Japanese police believe that North Korea, using its freighter designed for carrying humanitarian aid — rice — from Japan, managed to smuggle out some materials — some chemicals or chemical weapons. What is the Japanese Government's reaction?

A: What we know clearly is that the Japanese police have arrested one person, and have been investigating whether this particular person and his company have, in the past, smuggled the chemicals, which can be used for the manufacturing of sarin gas, etc., to North Korea. For the time being, we have to wait for the findings on the part of the National Police. This may constitute violations to the relevant laws which the Ministry for International Trade and Industry (MITI) is responsible for. We understand that MITI is also waiting until the necessary investigations are over.

MITI believes that if it is necessary, it will investigate the company concerned itself. What we do not know is whether this person or someone else has illegally exported those chemical materials using the ship which carried the Japanese aid to North Korea. As far as that matter is concerned, we have to wait. Therefore, at this moment, what we can say is rather limited. We have to wait to see what the National Police find out.

III. Japanese Policy on the Resumption of Normalization Talks With North Korea

Q: Recently, there have been a number of rather unusual moves by North Korea. For example, they claim they are scrapping the Armistice Treaty of 1954, or in Thailand there was a very suspicious case of fake dollars, etc. All these recent developments have not changed the Japanese Government's stance on resumption of normalization talks?

A: We had better separate the issue of the talks on the normalization of relations between Japan and North Korea, and the other issues which you just pointed out. As far as Mr. Yoshimi Tanaka is concerned, the Japanese Government has already formally asked the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand to transfer him to Japan. The Government of Thailand said they first have to investigate him, so we will have to wait until this investigation is over. In any case, we understand there are no complications over this issue, so we will just wait until their procedures are over. As far as the announcement and actions which violate the Armistice Agreement on the Korean Peninsula are concerned, we are concerned about the situation, and we think that those actions and their announcement are not desirable for peace and stability. We strongly urge for self-restraint on the part of North Korean authorities. The Armistice Agreement has been contributing to preventing the deterioration of stability on the Korean Peninsula, and before eternal peace is established over there, it is necessary for all parties to abide by the Armistice Agreement. So, Japan is of the view that the North Korean authorities should abide by the Armistice Agreement. We simply do not fully know what the argumentation is about, so in this sense, we carefully watch what is happening over there. In any case, we would like to separate those new phenomenon from the issue of the talks on normalization of relations between Japan and North Korea.

IV. Japanese Policy on Recent Activity in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the Part of North Korea

Q: It was reported that Foreign Minister Ikeda this morning, after the Cabinet Meeting, said that the Japanese Government regrets recent North Korean actions in the DMZ, and will keep a close eye on the situation there. But, he also said that he does not think that the situation there will lead to any serious situations. I would like to know what the basis is for Foreign Minister Ikeda's thinking for looking at the situation optimistically?

A: I am not aware of whether Foreign Minister Ikeda talked in an optimistic way or not. What he wanted to say is that we have not received information which may hint at the occurrence of military conflict over there. We know that three times the North Korean troops violated the Armistice Agreement, but yesterday, seemingly, stopped doing so. So, for the time being, Japan is carefully watching the situation, while asking the North Korean authorities for self-restraint. I do not think that our evaluation of the situation is optimistic. We are communicating very well with the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, and exchanging views over there.

V. Japanese Policy on Dialog Between the Parties Concerned With Developments on the Korean Peninsula

Q: North Korea seems to be seeking a new peace agreement with the United States. There are lots of views stating so. By trashing the current Armistice Treaty currently instated now, what does the Japanese Government think the ideal peace settlement on the Korean Peninsula should be? Also, the Government of the Republic of Korea seems to be uneasy about North Korean efforts to improve relations with Japan while excluding the Republic of Korea. What is the Japanese Government telling the Republic of Korea?

A: The Japanese Government is of the view that the dialog between the so-called North and South is principally necessary to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. Therefore, some moves that are against that cause some doubts for us. The direct talks between North Korea and the United States, which may jeopardize the position of the Republic of Korea, should not be supported. Therefore, when we engage in normalization talks with North Korea, the Japanese Government closely communicates with the Republic of Korea. At the same time, we make our positions clear to the North Korean delegation that this normalization between Japan and North Korea should simultaneously contribute to peace on the Korean Peninsula.

VI. Matters Relating to Japanese Representation at the Upcoming Second Donors' Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina To Be Held in Brussels

Q: You mentioned that the Japanese Government will probably send high-ranking officials to the Second Donors' Conference. Do you mean the Foreign Minister?

A: What I can officially say now is that we have not decided who can be sent to this conference. However, because of the Diet debate, I do not think that Foreign Minister Ikeda can physically leave Japan on 12 and 13 April.

Q: It has been reported that Japan is going to announce aid packages worth US$180 million.

A: As far as our announcement is concerned, please kindly wait until it is made at the Conference itself.

VII. Current Japan-United States Negotiations on an Extension of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)

Q: Regarding the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) with the United States, I understand that an extension of this agreement is now being negotiated in preparation for next week's summit. Can you bring us up-to-date on the state of the negotiations, and if possible, explain what the new accord will look like?

A: What I can say is very general. The Japanese Government and the Clinton Administration have been negotiating on this subject for a while. We are at the final stage of negotiations at the working level, but still, we cannot tell you when this working-level agreement will be reached, and whether this will be reflected in the so-called joint paper to be issued by the Japanese Government and the Clinton Administration when President William Clinton of the United States of America visits Japan. I am sure that Japan and the United States are doing their utmost to reach an agreement on this.

VIII. Recent Developments in Japan-United States Bilateral Relations on Trade and Economic Matters

Q: The focus of this summit between Prime Minister Hashimoto and President Clinton seems to be largely geared toward reaffirming the security relationship, especially in light of the situation in North Korea and China's recent military activities off the coast of Taiwan. But, can you tell me if there is any progress on any of the major economic issues at hand, or do you expect that there will be any progress on this?

A: Basically, both the Hashimoto government and the Clinton administration share the same view that the bilateral relationship should be developed in a more balanced way. So, when Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and President Clinton meet, they will touch not only on the security and political subjects, but will also talk about the economic and trade issues, and the so-called bilateral cooperations on the common global agenda. Having said this, if you talk about economic and trade matters, there have been public hearings on this in the United States Congress several times in the past. Some senior officials of the Clinton administration publicly stated that they would like to see some progress on some issues before President Clinton comes to Japan. If you talk about specific issues showing progress, such as aviation issues, very recently an agreement was reached on air cargo services. In the next stage, although the dates have not been decided, the Japanese side wants to hold talks on passenger service issues. As for insurance matters, so far the Ministry of Finance and the United States Trade Representative (USTR) are negotiating. They have not yet reached an agreement. It seems there are still points to be made clear. The talks on this issue were just over in Los Angeles, but we hope that both sides can find a mutually agreeable formula in the near future. But, if you talk about the Semiconductor Agreement and the Kodak film issue, it is very difficult to predict progress in the very near future. As far as the Kodak issue is concerned, our basic stance is that the United States should file a case with the Japan Fair Trade Commission. At the same time, the Commission is now investigating the situations surrounding the film market in Japan, and we do not think it a proper idea to hold bilateral talks under the threat of the Super 301. We hope they will understand this. As for the semiconductor issue, cooperation between Japanese and United States industries has been going very well. The Agreement itself will expire in July. We say that if the Agreement has produced tangible results, then why do we not let it expire in July, rather than extend it — because this type of agreement will not be welcomed under the newly established World Trade Organization (WTO). Having said this, we would just like to say that, although there are issues which have not been solved, and which cannot be solved by the time of President Clinton's visit, we do not think that President Clinton and Prime Minister Hashimoto will negotiate directly in Tokyo on these issues.

Q: You mentioned that there seem to be some prospects for progress — one of them being aviation — and, although no dates have been set, that Japan is interested in pursuing passenger talks. Are you at all confident that an announcement will be made that negotiations will be started on the passenger issue?

A: I do not know whether the United States is ready to announce when we can hold talks on passenger service.

Q: Are you hopeful that there will be an announcement by the Summit?

A: I cannot make a comment on this now.

IX. Matters Regarding Japanese Aid to the Palestinians

Q: You spoke about the Japanese aid and reconstruction in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this connection, I want to ask about aid to the Palestinians. After expanding Palestinian authority in the West Bank, are you going to increase your aid to the Palestinians?

A: In September 1993, the Japanese Government committed itself to extending US$200 million-worth of aid to the Palestinians — out of which already US$184 million dollars have been dispersed. We have not yet implemented the commitment, but more or less, we have been implementing this commitment well. Although I cannot tell you whether the Japanese Government is, at this particular moment, contemplating extending new aid to the Palestinians, very recently during the Summit of the Peacemakers in Egypt, we also announced aid for Palestine. You can see that by doing so, the Japanese Government is actively contributing and extending economic cooperation to the Palestinians.

X. Matters Relating to Palestinian Autonomy and Border Restrictions Maintained by the State of Israel

Q: From recent developments in the occupied areas, I gather that the Palestinians are being cornered now by two sides — one is the Israeli side, and the other the Palestinian authority. President Arafat is on record apologizing for things done. Have you ever taken this issue of Palestinians not to be cornered by their own Palestinian authority by pressure from Israel? Do you have this kind of approach, or this kind of connection with the Palestinian authority?

A: While the Japanese Government condemns terrorism, we basically think that to improve the social and economic environment in the area, Palestinian autonomy is necessary to prevent terrorism in the future. In this sense, the border regulations should not be excessively strict.

Q: The border?

A: The border restrictions. Now Israel restricts the flow of people between Israel and the occupied area.

Q: My question was that the Israeli forces have been going to the occupied areas, which they have given the right for the Palestinian authority to control. So, now there is a double pressure or double cornering of Palestinians who take part in any demonstration, which is a democratic way of expressing things. Regarding this double-punch kind of thing, have you thought of the Japanese Government saying something to the Israelis not to enter the areas which they have already given to the Palestinian authority?

A: What the Japanese Government can say on this is that, as I said, the economic and social environment in the occupied territory should be improved. In this sense, while we understand that Israel should take preventive measures against terrorism, on the other hand, the flow of people should be encouraged, otherwise the Palestinian people cannot manage. In that case, the border restrictions should not be excessively strict. On the particular questions you raised, the Japanese Government has not announced its positions.

Q: Let me put it straight. Do you accept Israeli forces going back into occupied areas, which they handed over to Palestinian authority, and they also take rule and order into their own hands — catching, imprisoning, beating Palestinians. And, this has already been done by the Palestinian authority, also.

A: What the Japanese Government can say is that the agreement so far made between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel should be observed fully.

XI. Matters Relating to Normalization of Relations Between Japan and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Q: About Bosnia, do you recognize the Bosnian Government diplomatically? Have you started negotiating? Does your ambassador in Vienna still take care of the Bosnian thing?

A: We have established diplomatic relations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Q: In Sarajevo?

A: We do not have a full ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our ambassador in Vienna is concurrently ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Q: Have you established a diplomatic room or office in Sarajevo?

A: We have not established our office in Sarajevo, but we have established diplomatic relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Q: Do they have an ambassador here?

A: No. The establishment of diplomatic relations with a country is one matter. To assign a particular person for a country is another.

Q: Alright, you have no ambassadors to each other. In Sarajevo you have no ambassador.

A: Our ambassador in Vienna is currently accredited to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Q: It's the previous status quo.

A: No. In previous times, we did not recognize Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our ambassador in Vienna visited Sarajevo now and then. But, about a month ago, we formally established diplomatic relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and our ambassador to Vienna was formally accredited to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Q: And, the exact date of recognition?

A: The Japanese Government established diplomatic relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina on 9 February 1996.

XII. Matters Relating to the Japan-United States Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)

Q: Is Japan considering providing parts to the United States forces under the Security Arrangement?

A: Are you talking about the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement asked about earlier?

Q: Yes.

A: I cannot say much in concrete terms, because Japan and the United States are negotiating this matter. What I can say is that the negotiation is in its final stage, and that we hope we can reach an agreement soon.

XIII. Japanese Policy on Conformance to United Nations Resolutions by the Republic of Iraq

Q: We understand that the Japanese Government has a great obligation to stability and security in the Gulf region. What is the Japanese Government position toward what is going on — the talks between Iraq and the United Nations, and various implementations of United Nations resolutions — from Iraq's side?

A: What we know is that there have already been talks on this issue between the United Nations and the Republic of Iraq, and that they have not reached an agreement yet. First of all, we sincerely hope that the Iraqi Government will fully abide by the United Nations resolutions. At the same time, we understand that the economic situation is deteriorating over there, and that many children and weak people are suffering from malnutrition, etc. The international society, including Japan, extends humanitarian aid for those people. We sincerely hope that the Iraqi Government can agree with the United Nations on this, so that those weak people will not need to suffer further in the future.

XIV. Possibility of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Attendance of Inauguration Ceremonies for Newly-Elected President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan

Q: [Translated from Japanese] Has the Government of Japan decided who will be sent to the inauguration ceremony in May for newly elected President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan? And, what will this person's capacity be?

A: [Translated from Japanese] The Japanese Government has not received an invitation from Taiwan yet. However, the relevant parties in Japan are aware of the inauguration, and I understood that, mainly, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is considering the matter.

Q: [Translated from Japanese] What will the capacity of this person be?

A: [Translated from Japanese] The LDP is studying the matter, and I have not heard anything in regard to capacity.

XV. United Nations Reform and Security Council Membership Revision

Q: I think the time is right to reform the United Nations. Among the suggestions are ideas to expand Security Council membership to include Japan and Germany. But, do you think that there are other powers or states on other continents which deserve permanent membership?

A: Japan is ready to study a proposal which says that, in addition to Japan and Germany, some developing countries from Asia, Africa, and Latin America should be included as permanent members of the Security Council. Our basic position on this issue is that there are a limited number of countries with the capability and willingness to play a global role for peace and stability of the world — in this sense, not only Japan and Germany. In fact, there is a proposal in front of us which we are studying, that some limited members of other parts of the world should be included on the Security Council. Thank you very much.

Japan: Hashimoto Vows To Maintain 'Close Contact' With ROK

OW1204010696 Tokyo KYODO in English 0050 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Friday [12 April] he hopes to maintain close contact with South Korea, where the ruling New Korea Party scored a de facto victory in Thursday's parliamentary elections.

"It may not be appropriate for me to comment on elections of other countries, but I would like to be in close contact with South Korea in light of developments" in North Korea, he said, referring to North Korean troops' recent incursions into the demilitarized zone.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference the government does not anticipate any major changes in South Korea as a result of the latest election because it is not a presidential poll.

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda said separately he hopes Japan and South Korea will be able to calmly ponder the future course of their bilateral relations, based on a stable political situation in South Korea.

"I hope South Korea's political situation will become stable in line with the election outcome and create an atmosphere in which the tow countries can sit down and talk over bilateral relations," he told a news conference.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto also told a press conference that irrespective of the election outcome Japan wants to further strengthen relations with South Korea.

"We expect to further enhance a friendly and cooperative relationship between Japan and South Korea. We intend to make due efforts to achieve this goal," the spokesman said.

Japan: DPRK Friendship Group Seeks Additional Rice Aid

OW1104144296 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 11 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The visiting Korea-Japan friendship delegation (with Kang Chong-hun, deputy director of a department under the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, and other officials as members) held a meeting with Hiromu Nonaka, acting secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], and other party officials at the LDP headquarters on 10 April. The DPRK (North Korea) delegates handed the Japanese officials a letter from WPK Secretary Kim Yong-sun addressed to Nonaka and others. At the same time, they requested that Japan send over a third shipment of rice supplies to North Korea. In response, Nonaka indicated his view on the rice aid issue, saying: "This matter should be discussed through official government channels."

Japan: Tokyo Hails Signing of African Nonnuclear Treaty

OW1104123296 Tokyo KYODO in English 1158 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO — Japan on Thursday [11 April] welcomed the signing of the Treaty of Pelindaba that declares all Africa to be free of nuclear weapons.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto said in a statement that the signing of the treaty will contribute to stemming the spread of nuclear arms in Africa.

In Cairo, 42 African nations signed the treaty Thursday and four declared nuclear powers — Britain, China, France and the United States — also signed protocols giving a commitment to cooperate with the pact's objectives.

The remaining nuclear power, Russia, did not sign the pact.

Japan: MITI Head Urges Indonesian Minister To Review Auto Plan

OW1104132396 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 11 Apr 96 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] On 10 April, International Trade and Industry Minister Shunpei Tsukahara met with visiting Indonesian Industry and Trade Minister Tungki Ariwibowo and asked him to have the Indonesian Government reconsider its domestic automobile project. Tsukahara pointed out that the project "is questionable in light of World Trade Organization (WTO) regulations." Ariwibowo responded: "Let us set up a working-level forum to clarify the problems." Tsukahara agreed, and it was decided that working-level talks will begin as early as this month in order to hold discussions on details of the Indonesian project and its congruence with WTO rules.

Japan: Health Ministry To Continue Ban on British Beef

OW1104134896 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO — The Health and Welfare Ministry decided Thursday [11 April] to continue its current step that calls for voluntary restrictions on imports of British beef and beef processed products, ministry officials said.

The step, decided in response to a recommendation by an advisory panel, is aimed at preventing "mad cow" disease, or BSE, from finding its way into Japan, the officials said.

The ministry also decided to confirm the country of origin at the time of an importer's advance report on imports of beef and processed beef in order to prevent entry of British products via a third country.

Nobuyuki Ito, who heads the ministry's Food Sanitation Investigation Council, said eating British beef does not pose a serious threat to human health as long as consumption is kept to an ordinary level.

Japan imported 247 tons of British cow stomachs from January last year to March this year, of which 190 tons have already been consumed. The ministry is urging meat traders not to sell the remaining 57 tons.

Japan also imported 17 tons of cow tongues and 89 kilograms [as received] of cow diaphragms last year. Nearly 10 tons of the tongues and all the diaphragms have been consumed.

Japan imposed a ban on imports of British beef products such as sausages and canned meat, including beef from Northern Ireland, in late March because of the "mad cow" disease scare in Britain.

Japan has banned beef imports from mainland Britain since 1951 because of concerns about a different cow disease.

A Europe-wide health scare broke out March 20, when the British Government announced it thinks there may be a link between BSE and the deadly Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans.

Many countries slapped a ban on imports of British beef, and the European Union has drawn up a plan to destroy about 4 million British cows in an effort to restore public confidence in beef.

Japan: Hashimoto 'Received' Donation From AIDS-Case Drug Firm

OW1204070896 Tokyo KYODO in English 0641 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said in the Diet on Friday [12 April] that he had received political donations from one of the five drug companies sued by a group of hemophiliacs infected with the AIDS [acquired immune deficiency syndrome]-causing virus HIV [human immunodeficiency virus].

Hashimoto told a session of the House of Councillors budget committee that political bodies associated with him received from Green Cross Corp. a total of 8.6 million yen from 1989 to 1994.

He was responding to questions by Ichiji Ishii, a member of the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

Hashimoto also admitted that he had received 20 million yen in political donations from a political group formed by pharmaceutical companies.

In late March, hemophiliacs who had contracted HIV from tainted blood products in the early 1980s signed court-proposed compensation settlements with the five drug companies and the government, ending seven years of court battles.

Deliberations on the 75.1 trillion yen state budget for fiscal 1996 began at the committee Friday following the passage at the House of Representatives on Thursday.

The budget includes a government scheme to use 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money for liquidation of seven failed mortgage firms known as "jusen."

The passage of the budget at the lower house came after the ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party, the Social Democratic Party and New Party Sakigake [Harbinger] agreed with Shinshinto that the budget bills should include an additional passage, stating that taxpayers' funds for the liquidation will be paid out only after "a (liquidation) system has been established."

Finance Minister Wataru Kubo told the same house committee it would be much better if the government could solve the issue without using public funds, but its scheme will help accelerate Japan's economic recovery, which will eventually result in an increase in tax revenue.

Japan: Finance Ministry To Create 'Jusen' Agency in Jul

OW1104122696 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO — The Ministry of Finance (MOF) is now seeking to create a debt-collecting body in July to help clear up the nation's bad-loan mess, scrapping its initial plan to establish the body in April, ministry sources said Thursday [11 April].

But it is uncertain whether the ministry will actually be able to set up the body in July to promote disposal of problem loans at seven insolvent "jusen" mortgage companies, which will be liquidated with the help of taxpayers' money under a government-brokered scheme.

There is a possibility that a bill for creating the body and three other bills for a healthier financial system will not be enacted before the current ordinary Diet session ends on June 19, parliamentary sources said.

Under the recent accord between the ruling and opposition parties, those bills will be discussed in an ad hoc committee to be established in each of the Diet's two chambers.

It is certain that Diet debate on the bills will be prolonged since the ad hoc committees also have to deal with various controversial issues, including how to call on additional financial burdens from the private sector for the liquidation scheme, the sources said.

The Finance Ministry is now concerned that a delay in the creation of the body will lead to a decrease in the amount of money it can recover.

The body will take over loans and other assets from the mortgage companies and recover money by selling land offered as collateral.

Since land prices are continuing to fall, there is a strong possibility that a delay in recovery will result in a rise in losses at the disposal body, analysts said.

If losses at the debt-collecting agency swell, the ministry may be forced to review the jusen liquidation scheme and call for more tax money to be injected.

The Finance Ministry initially planned to create the factoring organization in April to start operations as soon as the jusen formalize their dissolution and transfers of assets at their general shareholders' meetings in June.

But Diet debate on the fiscal 1996 budget, which includes the allocation of 685 billion yen for the liquidation scheme, stalled amid strong public anger at the use of taxpayers' money and the ministry was forced to give up the plan.

The government compiled a 50-day stopgap budget for fiscal 1996, which started on April 1, due to the prolonged confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties over the jusen issue.

The full fiscal 1996 budget passed the House of Representatives on Thursday evening after the ruling and opposition parties reached a compromise Wednesday night.

Their agreement says the 685 billion yen should be spent only after the groundwork for the jusen scheme has been established.

It does not refer to the specific contents of the groundwork, but coalition sources said it means the Diet must pass bills for the debt-collecting body and three other bills.

Under their accord, the ruling and opposition parties will discuss the bills in ad hoc committees to be created to deal with the jusen issue.

Coalition sources said debate in the ad hoc committees is expected to focus on how to ask for additional burdens for the liquidation of the mortgage companies from their founder banks and agricultural financial institutions, their major creditors.

As a result, it will take time for the committees to hold discussions on the four financial bills.

A parliamentary source also said early passage of the bills would be difficult in view of the Diet schedule.

The ad hoc committees are expected to start debate from early May, and debate in the lower house alone will take at least a month, the source said.

If the four financial bills are not enacted at an early date, it could lead to a delay in disposal of huge problem loans at financial institutions and adversely affect Japan's budding economic recovery, analysts said.

Japan: Kubo: Funds for 'Jusen' Plan Depend on Bill's Passage

OW1204045896 Tokyo KYODO in English
0312 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Finance Minister Wataru Kubo said Friday [12 April] the government can use 685 billion yen in taxpayers' money for the liquidation of ailing "jusen" mortgage companies if a bill is enacted for creating a body to recover loans made by them.

"The government can implement the jusen budget after establishing a system for the mortgage companies' dissolution, following the bill's enactment in the Diet," Kubo said at a press conference.

The fiscal 1996 budget, including the 685 billion yen spending for the jusen company liquidation scheme, passed the house of representatives on Thursday after the ruling and opposition parties agreed to add a provision to the budget's general rules.

The additional provision calls for the tax money to be used only after a framework for the liquidation scheme has been established, but it does not refer to the specific contents of the framework.

The ruling and opposition parties have been at odds over the interpretation of the provision.

A leader of the main opposition Shinshito (New Frontier Party) said the provision has a possibility of removing the 685 billion yen from the fiscal 1996 budget.

If a liquidation framework is established under Shinshinto's proposals, there is no need to use the taxpayers' money, he said.

Japan: Cabinet Adopts 3 Loan Disposal Bills

OW1204051196 Tokyo KYODO in English
0404 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — The cabinet Friday [12 April] adopted three financial bills related to the disposal of bad loans of financial institutions for submission to the Diet the same day, government officials said.

The bills include legislation that will allow public money to be used for liquidation of bankrupt credit unions, and for government ministries and agencies overseeing financial institutions to declare cases of bankruptcy and to take measures for reorganization of the failed entities, according to the officials.

Japan: Two Failed Credit Unions in Hyogo Transfer Operations

OW1204064296 Tokyo KYODO in English 0521 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kobe, April 12 KYODO — Two financially troubled credit unions in Hyogo Prefecture will transfer their operations to Danyo Credit Union, the third-biggest credit union in the western Japan prefecture, the three institutions said Friday [12 April].

The two are Sanyo Credit Union and Kemmin Daiwa Credit Union, both affiliates of the now defunct Hyogo Bank.

Sanyo and Kemmin Daiwa will transfer all their deposits and healthy loans to Danyo, while their problem loans will be taken over by a planned organization to recover loans of failed credit unions.

The Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan are now planning to create a Japanese version of the U.S. Resolution Trust Corp. (RTC) as early as this summer by reorganizing Tokyo Kyodou Bank, a special bank established to take over the operations of two failed credit unions in Tokyo.

Sanyo and Kemmin Daiwa will continue ordinary business until their operation transfer is completed.

The amount of unrecoverable loans at the two Hyogo Credit Unions is estimated at 16.6 billion yen, and the loan losses will be covered partly by their capital. Sanyo has capital of 271 million yen, while Kemmin Daiwa has 367 million yen.

The remaining losses will be covered by funds from Deposit Insurance Corp. under a new safeguard system for credit unions.

The government plans to create a new account in the corporation to specifically deal with collapsed credit unions.

Midori Bank, a bank set up by the private sector to take over the operations of failed Hyogo Bank, will also donate 3.5 billion yen to Danyo to support the operation transfer scheme.

Industry sources said operations at Sanyo and Kemmin Daiwa worsened as Hyogo Bank, their main financial supporter, went under last summer.

A huge amount of loans made by the two credit unions to nonbank affiliates of Hyogo Bank became unrecoverable due to their dissolution following Hyogo bank's collapse, the sources said.

The devastating earthquake that hit the Hyogo area in January 1995 also adversely affected the credit unions' businesses as the earthquake did heavy damage to rubber makers and other customers, the sources said.

As of the end of last September, Sanyo had deposits of 54 billion yen and its total lending reached 19.8 billion yen. Kemmin Daiwa had deposits of 28.3 billion yen and loans of 26.6 billion yen.

Danyo, meanwhile, had capital of 724 million yen, with deposits totaling 194.9 billion yen and loans amounting to 117 billion yen.

After taking over the operations of Sanyo and Kemmin Daiwa, Danyo will become the second-largest credit union in Hyogo Prefecture.

Whether the disposal scheme for Sanyo and Kemmin Daiwa is implemented smoothly will depend on Diet debate on three financial bills presented Friday by the government for the creation of the Japanese RTC and the introduction of the new depositor protection system for credit unions.

Since the Diet is now busy discussing the government's controversial scheme to use taxpayers' money for the dissolution of troubled housing loan companies, it may be difficult for the three financial bills to be enacted at an early date, analysts said.

A Finance Ministry official called for early Diet passage of the three financial bills, saying Sanyo, Kemmin Daiwa and Danyo agreed on the business transfer plan on condition that the bills be enacted.

Japan: Panel Favors Overhaul of Social Security System

OW1204080396 Tokyo KYODO in English 0654 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Calls for an overhaul of Japan's social security system dominated discussions Friday at a panel set up under the Fiscal System Council, an advisory body to the finance minister, group members said.

They said the discussions centered on expenditures to support the social security system.

Calls were made at the meeting for a sweeping review of the system and comprehensive discussions on overall costs of the system covering pensions, medical care and nursing services, they said.

Some of those attending stressed the need to topple the walls separating the various ministries and agencies concerned in discussing the issue of government spending to support the system, the officials said.

The panel plans to review educational expenditures and fiscal measures for public works projects in the future.

Japan: EPA Head Tanaka Welcomes Passage of FY96 Budget

OW1204041496 Tokyo KYODO in English 0356 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — Top economic planner Shusei Tanaka welcomed Friday [12 April] the passage of the fiscal 1996 budget by the House of Representatives after the ruling and opposition parties reached a compromise on a liquidation scheme on seven moribund mortgage firms.

"I hope it will pave the way for a smooth transition from the provisional to the main budget," Tanaka said, adding that it will help avoid an adverse impact on the domestic economy.

Tanaka, director general of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA), said the compromise does not mean a cut or freeze of an appropriation for the liquidation of seven virtually bankrupt housing loan companies.

He was referring to a compromise agreement between the ruling coalition and the main opposition party Shinshinto (New Frontier Party) on the disbursement of 685 billion yen set aside for the dismantling of the mortgage loan companies.

Japan: Business Leaders' Reactions Mixed on Budget Passage

OW1104114696 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 11 KYODO — Business leaders reacted with both relief and anxiety Thursday [11 April] to the passage through the House of Representatives of the fiscal 1996 state budget bill containing a controversial outlay for the liquidation of seven ailing mortgage loan companies.

Some business leaders expressed dissatisfaction over a passage inserted at a last minute into the bill that states the planned outlay cf 685.0 billion yen to wind up the mortgage companies will be spent only "after a (liquidation) system has been established."

The bill cleared the lower house after the ruling coalition offered to insert the passage during an overnight compromise with the main opposition party, Shinshinto (New Frontier Party).

The wording has already stirred up controversy over whether it implies a "freeze" on the fiscal appropriation.

Jiro Nemoto, president of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), said, "it is crucial to resolve the housing loan firm problem as quickly as possible to secure the soundness of the financial system, dispel international distrust and put the economy back on a recovery track."

Jiro Ushio, chairman of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said, "it is necessary for Japan to take a step forward as quickly as possible to invigorate its economy by alleviating the housing loan woes that have been under international scrutiny."

Kosaku Inaba, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "the freeze on the budgetary outlay to wind up the housing loan companies is the product of a temporary compromise and I am concerned that a resolution of the issue may be put off."

Toru Hashimoto, head of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, said the passage is a "big step forward toward the actual implementation of the liquidation as planned."

"I believe the liquidation will be promptly implemented upon the establishment of the entire framework for the plan," Hashimoto said.

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) who is now in Beijing, welcomed the resolution and said the budget passage has "cleared anxiety about the outlook of the national economy for the time being."

Dismantling the failed mortgage companies as soon as possible is vital to restoring confidence in Japan's financial system, he said.

Agricultural sectors, the largest lender as a group for the mortgage companies, also said they understand the liquidation will be carried out in line with the government's scheme drawn in December.

Informed sources pointed out that the agricultural sectors are waiting for the 5.5 trillion yen repayments that are guaranteed under the government scheme when the loan companies are to be liquidated, so that the money can be reinvested elsewhere.

An early resolution is also desirable for the agricultural sector because interest payments from the loan firms have ended since the beginning of this year, the sources said.

Japan: Report Compiled on Reviewing Trade, Investment Policy

OW1104131496 Tokyo NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (Morning Edition) in Japanese 11 Apr 96 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] On 10 April, the "Informal Meeting on Trade and Investment" (with Toshio Watanabe, professor of economics at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, as chairman), a panel affiliated with the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, compiled a report concerning reviewing Japan's trade and investment policy. The panel, in its report, recommends that in order to facilitate investment in the Asian region, Japan step up its efforts to deal with such issues as harmonizing standards and certification procedures, patent systems, and environmental problems.

Japan: Farming White Paper Urges Participation by Young

OW1204013996 Tokyo KYODO in English 0047 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tokyo, April 12 KYODO — An annual government report on problems gripping the nation's farming sector called Friday [12 April] for measures to motivate young people to become farmers to counteract the rapid graying of the nation's farming populace.

The fiscal 1995 white paper of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, endorsed at the morning cabinet meeting, focuses on steps to foster young farmers and narrow the gap between foreign and domestic food prices.

To attract and motivate young people to become farmers, the report called for greater incomes and more flexible working conditions in farming jobs.

It also proposed setting up sites to train young people in farming techniques and recommended that local communities establish support systems for prospective young farmers including land and financial aid.

In putting forward these recommendations, the report said the average age of people mainly engaged in farming has increased rapidly in recent years.

In 1995, farmers aged 65 or over accounted for 46 percent of the farming populace who spent more than half of their daily working hours in farming, compared with 13 percent in 1965, the report said.

The number of young farmers has increased over the past few years, but only slightly, it said.

In 1994, 2,100 new school graduates chose agriculture as their primary job, compared with 1,800 in 1993 and 1,700 in 1992.

The number of people aged 39 or under who chose farming jobs after spending years in other industrial sectors has also increased to 4,200 in 1994 from 2,500 in 1990, the white paper said.

Under the circumstances, the report stressed the need to create an agricultural structure where both farm land and the workforce can be used effectively and efficiently.

Regarding the price gap between Japan and other economic powers, it said retail prices of foodstuffs in Japan are 30 to 40 percent higher than in the United States and European nations.

In order to narrow the gap, the report urged cutting costs by expanding the scale of farming, but noted that higher personnel expenses, land prices and energy costs than in other major nations are common problems for all Japanese industries.

It then pointed to the importance of strengthening cooperation between farmers and the food industry and of promoting greater efficiency and rationalization in each stage of production, processing and distribution.

The white paper also recommended international efforts to achieve sustainable food production, citing concerns of a possible global shortage of farm produce in the future due to population growth and environmental problems.

In conclusion, the report said it is important to strike an appropriate balance between imports and food in storage, while maintaining domestic production as the basis of a stable food supply in Japan.

Japan: Select Foreign Ministry Personnel Featured

962B0058A Tokyo KANKAI in Japanese Feb 96 pp 60-71

[Article by KANKAI editorial staff: "Personnel Employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Japanese diplomacy will navigate turbulent seas even in 1996. Of special note is that in 1996, elections will be held in principal nations such as the United States, Russia, and South Korea and diplomacy will be given selective priority with primary emphasis on domestic issues, making the navigation of diplomatic waters more difficult than the average year. This article will introduce key individuals charged with handling Japanese diplomacy under such difficult conditions.

Of the total of about 5,000 personnel employed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, roughly two-thirds are assigned to overseas posts and roughly one-third are assigned to the ministry headquarters in Tokyo.

Such special circumstances of the ministry have been considered in arriving at the decision not to introduce the key personnel by bureau, but by the year in which personnel qualified under the foreign service officers' examination. In other ministries year group refers to the year in which a group was employed, but year group in the case of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs refers to the year in which a group passed the foreign service officers' examination. This article follows the latter definition.

Year Group 1954

The sole individual in this group is the most senior of foreign service officers on active duty. He is Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Hisashi Owada.

Current interest in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs focuses on how long Owada will choose to stay on active duty. In August of last year, when Owada relinquished his post as deputy administrative vice minister of foreign affairs to Kunihiko Saito (currently ambassador to the United States), there appears to have been an unspoken understanding between the two that "Owada would serve one year as ambassador to the United Nations, and that he would subsequently be assigned as ambassador to the United States."

Based on this understanding, Saito negotiated repeatedly with Foreign Minister Yohei Kono to appoint Owada as a replacement for Ambassador to the United States Takakazu Kuriyama of Year Group 1953. However, Kono persisted to the very end in his nonconcurrence. Whenever Japan-U.S. economic issues undergo difficult times, the Japanese ambassador to the United States inevitably is blamed. The reason why Kono persisted in his "disapproval" of the idea of assigning Owada as ambassador to the United States was that "we must not compromise Owada's position as the father of Princess Masako, wife of the prince, in connection with Japan-U.S. economic issues." Supposedly, Kono's advisor former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa also expressed the same view.

Even Owada himself seemed to have conducted himself as if he were serving as ambassador to the United Nations on a "temporary" basis. He did not spend much time in New York which is the location of the United Nations, but traveled the world to attend activities such as seminars. But, in his second year of his tour with the UN, he has begun to settle down in New York. It appears he may have become concerned with the commentary among UN officials that the Japanese UN Representative's team is weak with the exception of Owada, and has taken action to solidify the team such as bringing in Masaki Konishi of Year Group 1964 as the second UN Japanese ambassador.

The true value of Japan's UN diplomacy will be challenged during the Security Council's nonpermanent member nation election to be held either in the latter part of October or the first part of November. Japan and India have been nominated as candidates from the 48-nation UN Asian group, but India stands as a formidable competing candidate. In the same elections held last year, Japan and South Korea of the Northeast Asian area were both elected as nonpermanent member nations, which placed Japan at a disadvantage. The reason is that the possibility exists that the view will intensify among the Asian Group that, "It is not desirable to give priority to the Northeast Asian area in terms of member nations. We should now recommend India of the Southwest Asian area."

If Japan should lose in the UN nonpermanent member nation elections, it will represent a revisit of the time when Japan lost to Bangladesh in the same election of the past. If that should happen, circumstances just may result in compromising Owada's position. Accordingly, we now hear comments within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which state, "Perhaps we should replace Owada before the end of the current UN general assembly session this summer."

The problem becomes the disposition of Owada after he is relieved of his current assignment. At one time he was rumored to fill the position of president of the International Exchange Fund, a special corporation operating under the jurisdiction of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but the current term of President Shinichiro Asao of Year Group 1950 still has more time before it expires.

When Owada was appointed as ambassador to the UN, he was rumored to be destined to fill one of four posts including ambassador to the United States, supreme court judge, judge of the International Court of Justice, and secretary general of the UN. Of those positions, potential for assignment to the positions of ambassador to the United States and supreme court judge is eliminated as a result of Hiroshi Fukuda (former political affairs foreign ministry councillor; Year Group 1959) being assigned as supreme court judge. The position of judge of the International Court of Justice is currently being capably filled by Shigeru Oda, former professor of Tohoku University. Reportedly, Owada himself has a desire to fill the post of UN secretary general, but such an assignment would require the support of the majority of UN member nations and currently the outlook is cloudy at best.

Such being the case, Owada will continue as ambassador to the UN at least through this year and until the end of next year or some other appropriate time when

he could exercise an option between becoming a professor at Harvard University or becoming a second Nobuo Matsunaga (Year Group 1945; government representative on diplomatic affairs).

Year Group 1955

Capably filling their current assignments are Ambassador to Russia Koji Watanabe, Ambassador to Great Britain Hiroaki Fujii, and Japan International Cooperation Agency Director General Kimio Fujita. Ambassador to the Philippines Yoshifumi Matsuda, who started his government career with the Ministry of Home Affairs and later transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, can be positioned with this group.

Watanabe, who is an economist, was a rank amateur when it came to Russia, but he is doing a creditable job in monitoring Russia which is in the process of adopting market economy principles. His performance is substantially attributable to strong support from Minister to Russia Kazuhiko Togo of Year Group 1967. The Russian political situation is uncertain because of the unstable health of Russian President Yeltsin and the outcome for the presidential elections slated for June faces turmoil. Continued reliance will be placed on Watanabe's capabilities.

However, Watanabe faces the strong possibility of being reassigned some time this year. Takehiro Togo, who now serves as ambassador to Turkey, is considered to be a definite replacement for Watanabe.

As the secretary to the late former Foreign Minister and Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira, Fujii had the privilege of directly witnessing difficult negotiations such as that concerning the Japan-China Air Line Agreement. He has served as ambassador to diplomatically important nations such as Thailand and Great Britain.

Fujita once served as the director general of the Economic Cooperation Bureau, and was transferred into his current position from that of ambassador to Indonesia. Indonesia is the largest beneficiary of Japanese aid. You could say that he is well-suited to fill his current position as director general of the Japan International Cooperation Agency. He is an expert on China. There was a time when he was assigned to the Japan-China Memorandum-of-Agreement Trade Office in Beijing on a loan status. Before being assigned as director general of the agency, he was considered as a candidate as ambassador to China.

Matsuda, who was on loan from the Ministry of Home Affairs, is of exceptional capabilities, was recognized for his performance while serving with the Japanese embassy in the Philippines, and transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs based on a personal request from the minister of foreign affairs at that time to the minister of home affairs. He is serving out his last tour with the ministry at a location which brings back many fond memories. He also established quite a creditable reputation as a former foreign ministry spokesman.

GroupYear 1956

This group includes Ambassador to Thailand Takashi Onda, Ambassador to Indonesia Taizo Watanabe, Ambassador to Spain Uchiyasu Kurokochi, Ambassador of Japanese Delegation to International Organizations in Vienna Minoru Endo, and Ambassador to Spain Jutaro Sakamoto.

Onda is busy with preparations for the Asian-European Summit to be held in Thailand in March. Watanabe preceded Onda as ambassador to Thailand and served as foreign ministry spokesman before that. Current foreign ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto of Year Group 1963 is the seventh individual to serve in that position, but none have exceeded the performance of Watanabe. Watanabe's reputation within the foreign press corps was exceptional and he is still spoken of in reference to late evening responses with fidelity to press inquiries in fluent English.

Kurokochi is known as one side of the "husband-and-wife diplomatic team" with Kumi Kurokochi of Year Group 1957, who serves as ambassador of the Japanese Delegation to the Disarmament Conference of Geneva. Having served as ambassador to Tanzania and Nigeria, he is well-versed in African issues.

Endo contributed to the compilation of the World Trade Organization agreement. Sakamoto, along with Ambassador to Mexico Terusuke Terada of Year Group 1961, is considered within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to be an expert on the Spanish language. He is noted for being passionate and is well-known for the heated exchange he had with the director general of the North American Affairs Bureau, who advocated support for the U.S. invasion of Panama, while he himself objected to the invasion.

Year Group 1957

Among foreign service careers groups, this one stands out the most.

The group includes a galaxy of notables starting with Kunihiko Saito, who was last reassigned from the position of administrative vice minister to ambassador to the United States; Masamichi Hanabusa, who serves as ambassador to Italy; Takehiro Togo, who serves as ambassador to Turkey; Shintaro Yamashita, who serves as ambassador to South Korea; Kumi Kurokochi, ambassador of the Japanese Delegation to the Disarmament Conference; Tetsuya Endo, ambassador in charge of matters concerning the Korean Energy Development Organization (KEDO); and Yoshisuke Sato, ambassador to China.

Generally speaking, they say that any group that produces an administrative vice minister is destined to achieve career successes and this group is typical of that reputation. It appears that the chief of the ministry secretariat and the human resources department chief are prone to consider the wishes of the vice minister and dole out choice assignments to his group associates. Accordingly, there is a "maxim" circulated among ministry personnel that calls for "winning appointment as vice minister within your year group if you wish for a successful career."

Yamashita is known for being a "leader in information analysis" and is just the right person to serve as a monitor for the Korean peninsula which faces a tense situation. Endo is considered the foremost authority on the Korean peninsula within the ministry and will reportedly publish a book before long. Sato once served as a secretary to the late former Prime Minister Masahira Ohira. He is known for having quietly placed a photograph of the late Ohira on the chair that the latter was supposed to occupy during the Venice Summit, when Ohira died shortly before the conference.

Year Group 1958

Principal members of this group include Grand Master of Ceremonies of Imperial Palace Makoto Watanabe, who was requested to fill that position by the Emperor himself; Ambassador to Canada Takashi Tajima; Ambassador to France Koichiro Matsuuchi; and Ambassador in Charge of Asian-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) and Ambassador in Charge of Normalization of Relations Between Japan and Korea Hiromoto Seki.

In his previous assignment as ambassador to Myanma, Tajima contributed to the democratization of the country. Matsuura dedicated himself to his duties when Japan-French relations deteriorated because of the French nuclear tests and managed to avoid a situation where relations between the two nations fell to the worst situation. Seki engaged himself in preparations for the APEC Osaka conference and contributed to its success. However, he is a layman when it comes to Korean peninsula issues. His true capabilities will be tested when the Japan-Korea negotiations are launched.

Year Group 1959

This Year Group covers a colorful assemblage including Administrative Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Sadayuki Hayashi, International Interchange Fund President Hiroshi Ota, Ambassador to Egypt Kunio Katakura, Ambassador to Ireland Takanori Kazuhara, Ambassador to India Sakutaro Tanino, and Ambassador to Myanma Yoichi Yamaguchi.

Hayashi has consistently worked in the field of economics including a tour as director general of the Economics Bureau, and was last promoted from foreign councillor in charge of economic issues to administrative vice minister for the first time since Nobuo Matsunaga underwent the same promotion. He appears to be irresolute, but is a strong person in substance.

The U.S. military personnel rape of a young girl took place in Okinawa shortly after his appointment as vice minister, preoccupying him with a security issue with which he had no prior experience, but he managed to guide the matter into a controllable situation. The end of 1996 is the deadline for producing solutions to the issue of reducing the size of U.S. military bases in Okinawa which was created by the rape incident. Hayashi should be able to handle the project in a creditable manner.

At one time, he dedicated much time at collecting electric train models and cameras, but his current interest is mountain-walking. He has pursued that new interest even after being assigned as vice minister, but requires his secretary, Junichi Ihara, of Year Group 1978 to carry his cellular telephone.

Katakura is well known as being an expert on Arabian issues. As ambassador to Iraq during the invasion of Kuwait, he directed projects to protect the interests of Japanese residents of Iraq. Tanino was promoted to his current position from that of chief of Cabinet Councillors' Office on External Affairs. India normally becomes the last assignment for seasoned ambassadors. In this case, normal practice is topped by consideration that Tanino's appointment to that position is reflective of the confidence placed in him by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono. There is a strong possibility that he will be assigned laterally as ambassador to China, after completing his tour as ambassador to India.

Year Group 1960

This group also includes a number of colorful careerists, such as Ambassador to Iran Takeshi Ohara, Ambassador to Pakistan Takao Kawakami, Ambassador to Brazil Chihiro Tsukada, Ambassador to Singapore Katsuhisa Uchida, Chief of Protocol Office Kunisada Kume, Foreign Ministry Councillor in Charge of Political Affairs Shunji Yanai, Ambassador of the Japanese Delegation to International Organizations in Vienna Nobutoshi Akao, Ambassador to Australia Yukio Sato who was reassigned from the position of ambassador to the Netherlands, and Ambassador to Poland Nagao Hyodo.

Ohara is an expert on Arabian issues who once served as ambassador to Saudi Arabia and director general of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau and belonged to the Karate team while a student at Tokyo University. Kawakami once served as secretary to the late former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, when the latter served as chief cabinet secretary in the Fukuda cabinet. Kume evinces much promise as a German-language expert.

Yanai is kept busy as a foreign ministry councillor in charge of political affairs. He is a vice ministerial candidate for the post-Hayashi period, but a strong rival is Foreign Ministry Councillor in Charge of Economic Affairs Kazuo Ogura. Supposedly, Yanai's next assignment will depend on the record that he compiles for two years as foreign ministry councillor in charge of political affairs. Akao dedicated himself to UN peacekeeping organizational (PKO) activities when he served as director general of the United Nations Bureau. Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he is considered a leading expert on UN affairs. He still submits recommendations on the reform of specialty agencies of the UN from his current assignment in Vienna.

Sato is the second son of the Buddhist priest in charge of the Kotoku Temple, which is famous as the location of the "Great Statue of Buddha of Kamakura." He is a prominent expert on the United States, a specialist on security issues, and carries the potential of becoming a future candidate for ambassador to the United States. Many members of the foreign ministry look forward to his being appointed as a future vice minister. If he should be reassigned from his current post as ambassador to Australia to ambassador to the United States, it will be first that such a shift has taken place since Yoshio Okawara, currently serving as Federation of Economic Organizations consultant. Hyodo was serving as European and Asian Affairs Bureau director general during former Soviet President Gorbachev's visit to Japan and is a scholar of the Russian language.

Year Group 1961

The group includes a number of careerists with promise of becoming future vice ministers.

The group stands out within the ministry and includes individuals such as former chief of the Ministry Secretariat Tadashi Ikeda, Foreign Ministry Councillor in Charge of Economic Affairs Kazuo Ogura, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Minoru Tanba, Ambassador to Portugal Masaaki Kuniyasu, Ambassador to Mexico Terusuke Terada, Ambassador to Argentina Kiyohiko Arafune, Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura, and Ambassador to Denmark Takaya Sudo.

Ikeda will be promoted to an ambassadorial post, but he is basically a scholar on China. He is a strong candidate for future assignment as ambassador to China. Ogura is currently in charge of economic affairs, but he is also an expert on political issues. Moreover, he maintains an art studio in Paris and is a rare bureaucratic connoisseur of the arts. If Yanai of Year Group 1960 is not appointed as vice minister, Ogura will probably emerge as the next strongest candidate for that position.

If you allow Tanba to address security issues, he is truly first-class. Additionally, he is one of the few diplomats that speaks in a candid manner. Comments are heard within the ministry which say, "It would be nice if Tanba were to become a vice minister." Terada is a student of Spanish affairs. His record as a foreign ministry spokesman was recognized, bringing him an appointment as ambassador to Mexico. There was a time when he served as professor of international relations theory in the liberal arts school at Tokyo University. One of his assets is wide-ranging friends in the mass media world, such as newspapers, press agencies, and television, as a result of having served as chief of the Press Division.

Arafune served as ambassador to Nicaragua and director general of the Central and South American Affairs Bureau, before becoming ambassador to Argentina. He was never a scholar on Spanish affairs, but has become an expert on Central and South American affairs. Sudo is an expert on Arabian affairs. There is no doubt that he will eventually become an ambassador of one of the major Middle Eastern countries.

Year Group 1962

Central figures in this group include Ambassador of the Japanese Government Delegation to the European Union Atsushi Tokinoya, Ambassador to Malaysia Issei Nomura, Ambassador to Israel Haruhiko Shibuya, and Chief of Cabinet Councillor's Office on External Affairs Hiroshi Hirabayashi.

Nomura was promoted to his current ambassadorial post after successfully completing a tour as director general of the European and Asian Affairs Bureau which included a visit by Russian President Yeltsin. He is basically a Russian expert, and a baseball enthusiast. He is an avid fan of the Hiroshima Carps. He once contributed an article to a monthly magazine which proposed the establishment of a professional East Asian baseball league.

Shibuya has served as Northeast Asia Division chief and councillor of the Asian Affairs Bureau, and is well-versed in Korean peninsula issues. He evinces an unsophisticated air very unlike a diplomat and once experienced an episode during which television newscasters depicted him as the fishing boat captain over several minutes when he and then-Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa along with the captain and engineer of the "Number 18 Fujizan Maru" returned to Haneda Airport aboard a special plane after release of the latter members of the ship's crew by the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Hirabayashi, who was assigned as Chief of Cabinet Councillor's Office on External Affairs, a position equal in rank to that of administrative vice minister, after the promotion of his predecessor Tanino to the post of ambassador to India, deployed foreign aid of a somewhat different vein as director general of the Economic Cooperation Bureau which invited skepticism from the United States such as the restoration of yen-based aid to Vietnam and reopening of grant aid to Myanma. He is an unusual bureaucrat in terms of his candid manner of speech.

Year Group 1963

This group provides the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with structural support. Members of the group filling key positions include former Economics Bureau Director General and current Chief of the Ministry Secretariat Takaichi Haraguchi, ministry spokesman Hiroshi Hashimoto, Treaties Bureau Director General Akira Hayashi, Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Director General Kensaku Hogen, Ministry of Justice Immigration Bureau Director General Akira Ishuin (in a loan status), General Diplomatic Policy Bureau Director General Yutaka Kawashima, Central and South American Affairs Bureau Director General Shunichi Sato, Prime Minister's Office International Peace Cooperation Headquarters Administrative Bureau Director General Kojiro Takano, and former International Information Bureau Director General Yushu Takashima. LDP Secretary General Koichi Kato was also an original member of this group.

Haraguchi was approached by Administrative Vice Minister Hayashi to serve as director general of the Ministry Secretariat. When Hayashi was the foreign ministry councillor in charge of economic affairs, Haraguchi extended aid to Hayashi in his capacity as the director general of the Economic Affairs Bureau. Haraguchi also recommended that Hayashi take up mountain-walking as a pastime. Hashimoto is a nephew of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry Ryutaro Hashimoto. He was recognized for his capable handling of domestic and international press conferences conducted in support of Prime Minister Murayama who oversaw the conduct of the APEC Osaka conferences. Treaties Bureau Director General Hayashi is the son of former Director General of Cabinet Legislative Bureau Yuzo Hayashi. He was promoted to his current position after serving as Armaments Control and Science Councillor. Hogen is the son of the first director general of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency Shinsaku Hogen.

Kawashima is a candidate for the next foreign ministry councillor in charge of political affairs which is a stepping stone to becoming a future administrative vice minister. Sato once was a candidate for the position of foreign ministry spokesman. Takano was promoted from the position of International Social Cooperation Department chief. Now that he has been appointed to a critical position, he will undergo a crucial test of his true capabilities as a foreign service officer. In any event, this group contains members who will comprise a core team within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the future.

Year Group 1964

The group includes individuals such as International Social Cooperation Department Chief Kazuo Asakai, Economic Cooperation Bureau Director General Atsushi Hatakenaka, Asian Affairs Bureau Director General Ryozo Kato, Arms Control and Science Councillor Takekazu Kawamura, Japanese Second Ambassador to the UN Masaki Konishi, Consul General in Los Angeles Seiichiro Noboru, North American Affairs Bureau Director General Masaki Orita, former Minister to South Korea and next International Information Bureau Director General Hiroshi Shigeta, and Ambassador to Syria Tomio Uchida.

Asakai is the son of former Ambassador to the United States Koichiro Asakai. Hatakenaka is an expert on China and was once a candidate for the position of Asian Affairs Bureau director general. Kato is an expert on security issues and is generally expected to become director general of the North American Affairs Bureau. After becoming director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau, conflicts arose with China and South Korea on perceptions concerning past history which kept him busy relative to Japan's responses, but it appears that matters have returned to a normal status. Kawamura is a scholar of the French language. He was once a candidate for appointment as director general of the European and Asian Affairs Bureau.

Noboru was mentioned for a bureau director general position, but suffered an unlucky break. Rumors circulate that he may be appointed as Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau director general this summer. Shigeta, who was appointed as International Information Bureau director general, is an expert on Russia. Councillor Shuji Shimokoji of the Year Group 1969 and a member of the bureau is an expert on China, which means that a Russia-China team has been established within the bureau.

Year Group 1965

This group includes individuals such as Ambassador to Uzbekistan Ukeru Magosaki, former Minister to the Japanese Government Delegation to International Organizations in Geneva Shohei Naito, Cabinet Information Research Office Deputy Chief Yuji Nakamura, Consul General in San Francisco Kiyohiko Nanao, former Consul General in Hong Kong and next Economics Affairs Bureau Director General Yoshiji Nogami, Minister to Great Britain Sadaaki Numata, Cultural Interchange Department Chief Seiichiro Otsuka, Consular and Migration Affairs Department Chief Masaki Saito, and European and Asian Affairs Bureau Director General Kazuyoshi Urabe. The youngest of the bureau director generals is a member of this year group.

Urabe of the group is a scholar of the French language and was selected for his current position while serving as consul general at Strasbourg. In the past, the successive heads of the European and Asian Affairs Bureau were Russian language specialists and the French language scholar group had long desired "appointment of a French language specialist" to the position. Urabe was chosen from the group to fill the position. He is well-regarded among the press corps for his fine character. He once served as chief of Toyama prefectural police headquarters.

Nogami was recognized for his accomplishments in connection with the North Korean nuclear issue while serving in the position of General Diplomatic Policy Bureau councillor and quickly won appointment as a bureau director general. The question is, will he be able to perform capably on Japan-U.S. economic issues as well as he did on North Korean issues? Nanao was also in charge of economic affairs while serving as minister at the Japanese embassy in Washington, D.C. The position of consul general in San Francisco currently functions as a gateway to an executive appointment in ministry headquarters. The reason is that Foreign Ministry Councillor in Charge of Political Affairs Yanai and Asian Affairs Director General Kato were promoted to ministry headquarters executive positions from the post in San Francisco, but the question is will Nanao benefit from the same promotional pattern?

Year Group 1966

This group includes individuals occupying key domestic and overseas positions such as Consul General in Boston Nobuyasu Abe, Senior Councillor Tomoyuki Abe, Consul General in Honolulu Kishichiro Amae, Minister to China Koreshige Anami, on assignment as Ministry of Labor Councillor Makoto Asami (loan basis), Consul General in Chicago Mutsuyoshi Nishimura, Asian Affairs Bureau Councillor Kenzo Oshima, North American Affairs Bureau Councillor Toshiyuki Takano, Minister to the United States Yukio Takeuchi, Consul General in Hong Kong Hideaki Ueda, and General Diplomatic Policy Bureau Councillor Ryuichiro Yamazaki.

Among the group, Anami capably assisted Ambassador Sato, who is a novice on China, and guided complex diplomatic affairs with China without creating major issues. There is the possibility that Anami will serve as Asian Affairs Bureau director general after Kato. Takano, who has been tentatively selected for reassignment as minister to South Korea, dedicated himself to the handling of the September 1995 rape of a young girl by U.S. military personnel and the issue of downsizing U.S. military bases in Okinawa. He is probably disappointed in that he was not able to handle a visit by U.S. President Clinton during his tour as the North American Affairs Bureau chief.

Takeuchi is of exceptional caliber who once served as secretary to the former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa. Ueda capably handled the major task of serving as administrative bureau chief charged with preparations for the Osaka conference of APEC. He will be able to witness the "historical moment" when Hong Kong is transferred from Great Britain to China on 1 July 1997. His hobby is to draw sketches of scenery in locations that he visits in an official capacity.

Year Group 1967

This group includes KEDO board member in New York Itaru Umezawa (loan capacity), International Cooperation Agency General Affairs Department Chief Kyotaro Ogawa (loan capacity), Minister to South Korea Yoshitaka Kawamura, Minister to Russia Kazuhiko Togo, Economic Affairs Bureau Councillor Norio Hattori, Minister to the UN Matsushiro Horiguchi, Prime Minister Murayama's Secretary Kunihiko Makita, and cabinet councillor Yoshiki Mine (loan capacity). The group includes Yukio Okamoto who resigned from the ministry and currently pursues a career as a political commentator.

Among the group, those considered exceptionally capable include Togo who is an expert on Russia and provides critical support to the Japanese embassy in Russia, Makita who is an expert on China, an Mine who coordinates matters among ministries and agencies as a cabinet councillor.

Year Group 1968

Principal members of the group include Minister to Australia Naoto Amagi, Minister to France Yutaka Iimura, Minister to Great Britain Kyoji Komachi, Economic Bureau Councillor Toshinori Shigeie, UN Administrative Bureau Sachio Takasu (loan capacity), General Diplomatic Policy Bureau General Affairs Division Chief Hitoshi Tanaka, Minister to France Azusa Hayashi, Minister to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki, Consul General in Atlanta Yuji Miyamoto, and Treaties Bureau Councillor Shotaro Taniuchi.

Iimura was promoted from the position of minister to the United States. He became preoccupied with actions to be taken in response to the French nuclear tests as soon as he reached his post in France. Takasu is an expert on administrative and financial affairs of the UN and even carries the nickname of "Takasu of UN Administrative Reform." He is functioning capably in the restructuring of UN financial affairs which face a crisis situation. Tanaka is a brilliant individual who will be promoted to the position of North American Affairs Bureau councillor at a pace ahead of his group. His first project will be to handle U.S. President Clinton's visit of April.

Year Group 1969

This group includes many middle-management types such as Economic Affairs Bureau Director General Hiroyasu Ando, International Interchange Fund General Affairs Department Chief Kagefumi Ueno, International Cooperation Agency Planning Department Chief Nobutake Odano, Asian Affairs Bureau Councillor Masaaki Ono, Cultural Interchange Department Councillor Akio Kawato, International Information Bureau Councillor Shuji Shimokoji, UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Agency (UNESCO) member Nobuaki Tanaka (loan capacity), European and Asian Affairs Bureau Councillor Tsuneo Nishida, Minister to Mexico Seigi Hinata, International Social Cooperation Department Councillor Akihiko Furuya, and General Affairs Division Chief Mitoji Yabunaka.

Nishida and Yabunaka will probably continue to climb the diplomatic career ladder.

Year Group 1970

This group includes many middle-management types just like Year Group 1969 such as Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau Councillor Shin Ebihara, Economic Affairs Bureau Councillor in Charge of General Affairs Shinichi Kitajima, Personnel Division Chief Yasuo Saito, Councillor in Charge of Press and Public Affairs Ken Shimauchi, Accounting Division Chief Akio Tanaka, Minister to China Sumio Tarui, Minister to China Itsuo Hashimoto, and Communications Division Chief Hideto Mitamura.

At the beginning of the year, Ebihara will go to the Palestine Autonomous Zone as the chief of the Japanese Government Surveillance Team to monitor elections for members of the Palestine legislature. Kitajima, who is one of the few employees of the ministry who are graduates of Keio University, has been tentatively selected for promotion to the key ministry policy coordination position of General Diplomatic Policy Bureau General Affairs Division chief. Tarui and Hashimoto represent a rare case in which members of the same year group have been assigned concurrently to Beijing.

Year Group 1971

This group includes councillor assigned to the Japanese Embassy in Thailand Taro Ishibashi, councillor assigned to the Japanese Embassy in China Yasuyoshi Ichihashi, councillor assigned to the Japanese Embassy in South Korea Ichiro Komatsu, councillor assigned to the Japanese Embassy in the United States and tentatively selected for councillor in charge of general affairs in the Economic Affairs Bureau Seiichi Kondo, retired and now serving as professor of Osaka University Takahiro Jinyo, councillor in charge of Diet affairs Yoshio Nomoto, and councillor assigned to the Japanese Embassy in South Korea Masatoshi Muto. The group includes individual foreign service officers who fill key positions in Japanese overseas legations.

At the Japanese Embassy in South Korea, Komatsu handles public affairs and Muto handles political affairs. Of the two, Muto was a member of the first group of Korean language students among career foreign service officers. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook a serious program about that time to develop experts on the Korean peninsula.

In his last position, Kondo served as a councillor at the Japanese Embassy in the Philippines. He wrote articles and contributed them to local newspapers while assigned to the Philippines to disseminate information on Japanese diplomatic policy. He was selected for assignment to the key position of councillor in charge of general affairs in the Economic Affairs bureau as a result of his performance in Manila and Washington, D.C.

Jinyo now serves as professor on international public policy research at the graduate school of Osaka University. Books published include "New United Nations Theory."

Year Group 1972

Conspicuous among the group are individuals who occupy positions as key division chiefs or councillors of Japanese foreign legations, such as councilor assigned to the Japanese Embassy in Russia Toshiaki Ozawa, Press Division Chief Katsuaki Katori, First North America Division Chief Masaharu Kono, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Japanese Delegation Councillor Mitsuo Sakaba, councillor assigned to Japanese Embassy in Malaysia Tetsuo Shioguchi, Overseas Establishments Division Chief Kojiro Shiojiri, and Economic Cooperation Bureau Aid Policy Division Chief and tentatively selected to become Accounting Division Chief Shigeru Nakamura.

Katori is the son of Yasue Katori, former president of the International Interchange Fund who once served as ambassador to China and Russia. The Press Division is responsible for handling the domestic mass media, and Katori is highly regarded because of his pleasant way of dealing with the mass media.

Nakamura will have served in three division chief positions as he moves from the Northeast Asia Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau Aid Policy Division, to the Accounting Division. He is the envy of coworkers and junior foreign service personnel, because successive assignments to such choice positions is a rare occurrence.

Year Group 1973

The group includes individuals occupying key positions, such as Councillor assigned to the Japanese Embassy in Australia Toshinao Urabe, on assignment to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Kenichiro Sasae (loan capacity), councillor assigned to the Japanese Embassy in China Yoshiyuki Sadaoka, Arms Control and Disarmament Division Chief Akira Takamatsu, UN Administrative Division Chief Wataru Nishigahiro, Treaties Division Chief Keiichi Hayashi, and Russian Division Chikahito Harada.

Urabe established a reputation for himself as being capable as a result of successfully completing a tour as secretary to Hisahi Owada in the latter's capacity as administrative vice minister because of Owada's reputation for being strict when it came to official matters. Sasae is dedicating himself as the assistant to High Commissioner Sadako Ogata. He is an able foreign service officer who has served as chief of the Second North America Division. Sadaoka was promoted from his last assignment as councillor with the Cabinet International Peace Cooperation Headquarters. Nishigahiro was last assigned in a loan capacity as the Defense Agency Training Division chief. He is known as a theater critic and contributes articles to specialty magazines under a pseudonym.

Harada exclusively handles Russian diplomatic policy formulation projects and will probably be preoccupied with preparations for Prime Minister Murayama's April visit to Russia.

Year Group 1974

This group includes many individuals of high caliber, most of whom are serving in their second assignment as division chiefs, such as Grant Aid Division Chief Norihiro Okuda, General Diplomatic Policy Bureau Planning Division Chief Chikao Kawai, UN Japanese Government Delegation Councillor Yuji Kumamaru, Loan Aid Division Chief Yasuaki Tanizaki, Overseas Public Relations Division Chief Masuo Nishibayashi, Northeast Asian Division Chief Koro Bessho, First International Economics Division Chief Akira Miwa, First West Europe Division Chief Seiji Morimoto, and Security Policy Division Chief Kenjiro Monji.

Some members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have qualified under the foreign service officer's examinations, but have been unable to win appointment to division chief positions and continue to serve in overseas legations. Supposedly, having served as a division chief on two different tours itself is evidence of being an exceptional foreign service officer.

Year Group 1975

This group includes Ministry Secretariat secretary Masato Kidera, Second International Organizations Division Akitaka Saiki, Legal Division Chief Koji Tsuruoka, Second North America Division Chief Shinichi Nishimiya, Defense Agency Training Division Chief Toshinori Yanagitani (loan capacity), and Research and Planning Division Chief Kazuo Watanabe.

Saiki is known as part of a husband-and-wife diplomatic team. Tsuruoka and Nishimiya comprise a father-and-son diplomatic team. They are of a caliber which promises a significant rise in career ladders.

This article covers only a portion of the personnel representing each year group, which means that additional capable personnel are members of each group. I would like to cover personnel in Year Groups 1976 and beyond in a separate article.

North Korea

DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Armistice Agreement

SK1204122496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1207 GMT 12 Apr 96

["DPRK Will Never Change Its Position; Foreign Ministry Spokesman" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement today.

The statement came as the South Korean authorities and some dishonest-minded forces are seriously getting on the nerves of the DPRK with false rumours which would be of no help to the settlement of the problems at a time when the military tensions on the Korean Peninsula are hourly leading to an unpredictable situation.

The statement says:

Those who spread false rumours are deliberately distorting the essence of the present situation, branding the self-defensive measure of the DPRK as a "political provocation" aimed at a "specific purpose" and as a "tactics of diplomatic pressure" on someone and foolishly attempting to describe the provocateur as "defender of peace" and the victim as "disturber of peace."

It has been officially explained on several occasions why the Armed Forces of the DPRK could not but take a positive self-defensive measure.

As is well known, the South Korean authorities, zealously backed by the bellicose quarters of the United States, this year have entered into the stage of executing in real earnest the long-prepared plan of war against the North.

From the beginning of the year, surprise attack exercises and joint naval exercises were held one after another throughout South Korea on the ground and in the sea and the sky. A large combined military exercise of South Korea codenamed Hoguk 96 took place from late March to early April.

At the same time, the U.S. military staged a U.S.-South Korea joint military exercise with nearly 1,000 warplanes, including B-1s and B-52s, latest-type fighter-bombers. The situation has developed toward the danger line strikingly similar to the eve of war.

The scope of the military exercises of the enemies is 30 percent larger than last year and 50 percent larger than the previous years. What this figure means is clear to everyone.

What is all the more intolerable is that the South Korean authorities have turned the Demilitarized Zone along the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) into a completely militarized zone and a new starting position for new attack.

The South Korean authorities, who had long since ignored the provisions of the Armistice Agreement on the maintenance and management of the Demilitarized Zone, brought various types of heavy weapons and built military facilities in the southern portion of the DMZ . They went so far as to openly build a position at an area 100 metres off from the MDL.

We could not look with folded arms at the dramatic situation in the hope of getting anyone's recognition in face of obvious war preparations taking place in the area of one of the hostile parties.

It is only too legitimate that our Armed Forces responsible for the security of the country and the nation exercise the right to self-defence to prevent the outbreak of a war and safeguard peace and security.

Nevertheless, the South Korean authorities and U.S. bellicose right-wing conservatives are misleading public opinion with the allegation that we have "destroyed" the Armistice Agreement for a "specified purpose" including the signing of a tentative agreement with the U.S.

Their allegation is nothing but a deception aimed at covering up the true colors of the provokers and justifying their war moves.

We want peace, but never beg for it. This is our unshakable faith.

The enemy's maladroit drama has been snubbed by world people who are able to judge what is right and it has only added fuel to animosity of our people and army against the enemy.

The DPRK Government has put forward realistic proposals and made sustained, patient efforts to replace armistice with a durable peace in the Korean Peninsula.

With a view to filling up the high-risk blank in security under the already collapsed armistice system and preserving peace, we proposed a new peace mechanism and made an official announcement that we were willing to observe the Armistice Agreement until it was established.

It implied that the present armistice system will remain in effect until a new system is set up.

The point is to establish a new peace-keeping system as early as possible in place of the present armistice system.

As part of the efforts for its establishment, we recently put forward an epoch-making proposal to renew the impotent Armistice Agreement as a tentative agreement in the hope of preventing any casual armed conflict in the Demilitarized Zone.

Our efforts, however, have failed to fruitify in time due to the enemy's unreasonable position.

The blame for the destroyed Korean Armistice Agreement lies with the U.S., which has historically and systematically wrecked and violated the Armistice Agreement and armistice supervisory tools in the name of United Nations forces, and with the South Korean authorities under the U.S. patronage.

As soon as it signed the Armistice Agreement, the U.S. side blocked the possibility of a peaceful coordination of the Korean issue from the beginning by intentionally foiling the convocation of a higher-level political conference which was envisaged in the paragraph 60 of the Armistice Agreement. In 1957 it unilaterally breached sub-paragraph 13d, which provides for cessation of the introduction into Korea of reinforcing military equipment and combat materiel, and declared it would not submit a report on the replacement of the old combat materiel with the new one.

And it obstructed in every way the activities of the neutral nations inspection teams which had been sent to Inchon, Taegu, Kangnung, Pusan and Kunsan, ports of entry, under paragraph 43 of the Armistice Agreement and drove them out of the areas by force.

Over the past odd 40 years two-thirds of the paragraphs of the Armistice Agreement have not been implemented due to the U.S. and the South Korean authorities. The agreement, therefore, has remained a mere scrap of paper which cannot help preserve peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Moreover, the U.S. appointed a general of the South Korean puppet army, who has neither qualification nor power, as the senior member of the UN forces side to the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) in 1991, thus completely paralysing the function and role of the MAC.

All this proves clearly who is the very one that has systematically destroyed the Armistice Agreement and aggravated tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities took the matter to the UN Security Council, clamouring about the "destruction" of the Armistice Agreement by someone and "provocation" in the Demilitarized Zone. It is the height of impudence.

What should be done, though belately, by the UN, whose name and flag have been misused for the destruction of the Armistice Agreement in the past period, is to remember its unpleasant past concerning the Korean issue and to charge the U.S. and the South Korean authorities with systematically destroying the Armistice Agreement and reducing it to a meaningless one.

The U.S., a signatory to the Armistice Agreement, should look squarely at the matter and act with discretion at the present juncture decisive of the fate of the situation.

If the insidious elements bereft of reason dance to the tune of others, history will call them to account because they are heavily responsible for the irrevocable disaster inflicted upon humankind.

Convinced of the justness of our cause, we do not mind whatever anyone says.

We will never change the position we adopted reflecting our resolution.

DPRK: Military Sources View 'Grave Provocations' by ROK Military

SK1204032696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0321 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Grave Provocations by S. Korean Puppets" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The South Korean puppets have continued committing provocations against the North in the vicinity of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] these days, military sources said.

In the period from April 5 to 10, the puppets brought a large number of armed soldiers, 100 odd military vehicles, and heavy weapons into different places near the MDL in the central sector of the front. And they sighted already-introduced 90 mm recoilless guns and 12.7 mm machine guns at People's Army soldiers of the North side, seriously threatening their lives.

From April 6 to 9 the puppet army soldiers swayed machine guns and automatic rifles in the vicinity of MDL in the western sector of the front, inciting a confrontation atmosphere, while scores of officers deliberated over operations against the North, which showed their reckless design of aggression.

We are watching with heightened vigilance at the enemy's provocative moves.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam's 'War Confabs' Against DPRK Decried

SK1204034096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0334 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Last-Ditch Effort of Those Facing Destruction" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The traitor Kim Yong-sam has had war confabs against the North with brasshats almost every day. On the 10th of April he sent the puppet prime minister, the puppet defence minister and other high-ranking personages to the puppet army units in the Paekryong Island and the frontline areas so that they could whip up a war fever, crying for "tight countermeasure" and "prompt punishment" against the North.

All the puppet Armed Forces are put in "special alert posture" and the puppet army divisions along the Military Demarcation Line are in full readiness for action, waiting for an order to provoke a war, in the heat of a vicious smear campaign against the North in South Korea.

Now that the South Korean puppets are ready to fire at the North, the outbreak of a war is a matter of time.

All this shows that if another war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, the South Korean puppets should be held wholly responsible for it because they have created a dangerous situation.

The South Korean puppets have driven the situation to the brink of war by getting on the nerves of the North. They should know that the North also has the right to choice.

It is the revolutionary qualities of our people and the People's Army to answer fire with fire. The mission of our People's Army is not confined to defence.

If the enemies dare encroach upon an inch of our territory, our airspace and our territorial waters, our people and the People's Army will defeat them at one stroke and completely remove the source of war from the Korean peninsula.

DPRK: 'Provocations' by ROK on 5-10 Apr Condemned

SK1204033396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a military source, the South Korean puppets have continuously perpetrated provocations against us these days.

At around 0910 on 10 April, under the escort of a jeep mounted with a machine gun, the puppets brought four military vehicles carrying approximately 100 heavily armed villains to a military police guardpost southeast of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] marker No. 0420 in the central section of the frontline. The armed villains swarmed into the area near the MDL, took up combat positions along the left and right ridges of the military police guardpost, and aimed 90-mm recoilless rifles and 12.7-mm large- caliber machine guns, which they had already brought in and installed, and automatic weapons at soldiers of our People's Army, seriously threatening their lives.

Prior to this, on 5 and 7 April, the puppets brought two 90-mm recoilless rifles and 12.7-mm large-caliber machine guns near an area 300 meters south of MDL marker No. 0417. At around 0830 and 1105 on 8 April, they brought two 90-mm recoilless rifles and 12.7-mm large-caliber machine guns to a military police guardpost south of MDL Marker Nos. 0400 and 0418. They installed these weapons at their position and assumed a posture of firing them at soldiers of our People's Army.

On 6 and 9 April, numerous puppet Army villains fully armed with machine guns and automatic rifles moved very close to an MDL section southeast of MDL marker Nos. 0110 and 0163 on the western sector of the frontline and perpetrated war frenzies in this area, while running amok recklessly night and day.

On 8 and 9 April, numerous armed puppet Army villains swarmed near MDL marker Nos. 0024 and 0140 on the western sector of the frontline and deployed for combat purposes. They also wielded machine guns and automatic rifles at random and inspired an atmosphere of confrontation.

On 7 and 8 April, a group of dozens of puppet Army officers sneaked very close to MDL marker Nos. 0038, 0140, and 0222, had a confab to discuss operations for northward aggression, and revealed its intention for reckless aggression.

On 9 and 10 April, the puppets brought approximately 100 military vehicles fully loaded with numerous armed villains and lethal equipment to a section from MDL marker No. 0577 to marker No. 0587 and ran amok.

We cannot help but take these provocations more seriously because they were being perpetrated while the Kim Yong-sam ring was raving about the nonexistent threat of southward invasion and continuously making violent remarks seriously inciting us.

If the South Korean puppets bring the situation along the MDL to a dangerous touch-and-go phase despite our repeated warnings, the bastards will not be able to escape from 100-fold harsh punishment.

DPRK: ROK Decried for Creating 'Tense Situation'

SK1204065196 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0850 GMT 11 Apr 96

[NODONG SINMUN 11 April commentary: "We Will Rule Fire With Fire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the prevailing dangerous situation in our country, which has reached the breaking point, due to the South Korean puppets' reckless military provocation, the entire nation and the peace-loving people of the world fully support and sympathize with the self-defensive measures taken by the Korean People's Army mission in Panmunjom based on its position to defend the fatherland, protect peace, and prevent a war.

However, the South Korean puppets are viciously smearing us while making such typical slanderous remarks on the so-called provocation and threat, showing a hysterical war frenzy.

Several days ago, traitor Kim Yong-sam called in top-level puppets—such as the foreign minister, the defense minister, the chief of the Agency for National Security Planning, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—to hold the so-called emergency security meeting and the so-called emergency unification and security-related ministers' meeting, agitating [sondong] a war for northward invasion.

Raising a vicious outcry over the measures we recently took, saying the character of these measures is different from that of previous measures, the puppet traitor rashly made belligerent outbursts, mentioning strong countermeasures, alertness against the North, and the like. As a result, all puppet Army divisions around the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] have completely held themselves in readiness for moving and firing, and are now waiting for an order to open fire.

Meanwhile, during the so-called emergency staff meeting attended by directors of the National Defense Ministry and the leading staff of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the puppets were recklessly running wild like a shot calf, planning to prepare countermeasures, conveying an order to the entire puppet Armed Forces to be on a special alert, raising a level higher than now, and establishing an emergency management team in each division of the puppet Army.

Now, the people of the world ridicule and scorn the frenzied military commotion by the Kim Yong-sam ring, describing it as an act that reminds of the old saying that one who started a fire cries "Fire!"

We cannot look on with folded arms the Kim Yong-sam ring driving the situation into the more dangerous brink of war by conducting deliberate military commotions while trying to shamelessly shift its due responsibility to others with a view to calming down a nest of hornets, which has been stirred up by itself.

As the world recognize, the prevailing tense situation on Korean peninsula, the development of which no one can predict, was totally led off by the South Korean puppets [choson pandoe chosongdoen yechukhalsu omnun kinjanghan sataeui paltanun chonjoguro namjoson koeroeduregc itta].

The South Korean puppets aroused the hornets' nest; accordingly, they should be held responsible for that. It is none other than the South Korean puppets that has changed the DMZ and the MDL into an armed zone for northward invasion and a new attack position by bringing a large quantity of heavy weapons and armed troops into the DMZ.

Those who have deployed huge aggressive armed forces on Korean peninsula for actual war and has been frenziedly conducting war exercises against us are the U.S. military circles [mi kunbu kyechung] and the Kim Yong-sam ring.

Because of the Kim Yong-sam ring that has made up its mind for a real war for northward invasion, the Armistice Agreement has become unsubstantial, and the launching mechanism for northward invasion has been already cocked [pukchimul wihan silchonul chakchonghan Kim Yong-sam iltange uihayo jongjon hyopchongun issunamanahan chonjaero toego pukchimui kyokpalginun imi tanggyojyotta].

We have repeatedly warned the puppets to contemplate that their reckless anti-Republic confrontation and war provocation maneuvers may bring about irrevocable grave consequences and to stop those military moves.

In particular, we put forward a proposal to replace the unstable [puranjonghan] armistice system with a durable peace mechanism, and have made sincere efforts to remove the danger of war from the Korean peninsula and protect peace in the country and the safety of the nation, taking measures to realize the proposal. In connection with the danger of war, which has become realistic on the Korean peninsula, we also proposed recently to make this year a year of peace and great national unity and have been making active efforts to realize it.

However, in response to our repeated warnings and sincere peace-loving efforts, the Kim Yong-sam ring has reinforced its armed forces and has constantly conducted large war exercises for northward invasion, making the situation of the country extremely tense. Therefore, our recent actions are completely just because they are self-defensive measures to protect our sovereignty and primary interests and peace-loving measures to promote peace and security in our country.

Nevertheless, the puppets are still assuming a haughty attitude as provokers. They are continuously and absurdly talking about a military threat by us and are engaged in reckless military commotions, driving the situation into a more dangerous phase. This is a shameless act like a thief raising a hue and cry. We consider the puppets' act as a deliberate and planned provocation aimed at confronting us to the end and finally arouse the hornets' nest of war for northward invasion. We cannot overlook this. There is a limit to one's patience. We can no longer tolerate [yongin] the situation in which our sovereignty is infringed upon. It is our unshakable will to answer fire with fire, and a stick with a stick.

We recognize it is time for us to call the U.S. belligerent circles [migugui hojon kyechung] and the South Korean puppets to account. The South Korean puppets—who, by constantly conducting provocative acts of war [tobalchogin chonjaeng haengwi] with outside forces, have put order in the DMZ into a lawless state and have created an extremely dangerous situation, in which the report of guns of a war for northward invasion may be heard at any point [imuiui sigage pukchimjonjaengui chongposongi ullilsu innun kuktoui wihomhan chongse]—are entirely held responsible for the situation in which we could not help but take self-defensive measures.

We will not stand even a moment [sungando yonnaphaji anulgosimyo] the puppets' attempt to find a way out of the unstable political situation of South Korea and the serious power crisis in arousing the hornets' nest of war for northward invasion, and will respond to it with a thousandfold self-defensive measure.

If the enemy dares to invade even a small area of our land, sky, or sea, our people and People's Army will mercilessly smash the move [mujabihage chinmungge porilgosimyo]; they have made full preparation for completely eradicating the root of war from the Korean peninsula.

We warn again that the Kim Yong-sam ring should contemplate the consequences resulting from their reckless moves like acts by a new-born puppy which is too young to fear a tiger and should cool their heads fidgeted with the war fever for northward invasion.

DPRK: PRC Foreign Ministry Statement on New Peace Mechanism Cited

SK1204085296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0832 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — "We consider that the Korean Armistice Agreement should be replaced by a lasting peace mechanism because many years have passed since the ceasefire on the Korean Peninsula."

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China declared this at a weekly news briefing on April 9.

DPRK: More Reported on PRC Position on Armistice

SK1204002796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] During a weekly press conference held on 9 April, a spokesman for the PRC Foreign Ministry stated: Since the war has long since ended on the Korean peninsula, we recognize that the Korean Armistice Agreement should be replaced by a durable peace system.

He noted: However, we insist on the above while recognizing that the Armistice Agreement should remain in force until a peace system is established.

DPRK Paper Calls Peace 'Invariable Stand, Will' of DPRK

SK1204035696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0343 GMT 12 Apr 96

["S. Korean Warmaniacs Hit For Running Amuck" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Peace is our invariable stand, will and desire. We have no intention, however, to preserve peace while having our sovereignty and supreme interests violated. To answer fire with fire, war with war is just our stand and will.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a signed commentary today.

The analyst notes:

At a time when all the puppet Armed Forces were in full readiness for war the "prime minister," the "defence minister" and other bosses of the South Korean puppet administration and the military showed up in the areas near the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] a few days ago. At that time they let out a blast, clamouring about "armed provocation" of the North.

Now that huge Armed Forces of the North and South are in acute confrontation with the MDL in between, neither side should let out provocative utterances. But the Kim Yong-sam group are hell bent on slandering the North and openly inciting a war fever against the North in the forefront areas.

In getting on the nerves of the North they attempt to bring about a situation in which military conflict may occur and, furthermore, to provoke a war against the north. What a dangerous act it is.

If the Kim Yong-sam group mistake our peace step and efforts for our weakness and take the road of igniting a war against us, we will mete out a decisive punishment to the provocateurs on the strength of justice and clear the source of war from the Korean peninsula.

DPRK Article Warns Against Imperialists' Cultural Invasion

962C0043A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 8 Jan 96 p 6

[Article by Kim Chong-son: "To Block the Imperialists' Ideological and Cultural Infiltration."]

[FBIS Translated Text] The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out the following: "To protect and defend socialism and insure the country's independent development, we must struggle against the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration."

Currently, the imperialists are viciously pursuing a "policy of peaceful transition" while tenaciously clinging to the position-of-strength policy in an effort to squeeze to death independent anti-imperialist countries. In this operation, ideological and cultural infiltration is their principal weapon. To cite a typical example, the United States has set up 37 information services and information centers and 54 satellite television antennas and so forth in African countries, and it has been stepping up its ideological and cultural infiltration through these media. In addition, the imperialists are spreading reactionary bourgeois culture and the reactionary bourgeois way of life in the name of "exchanges" and "cooperation." In this way they are trying to atrophy the awareness of self-dependence, class consciousness, and national consciousness in the minds of the people and bring down progressive countries from within. Should the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration be overlooked or go unchecked, it would be impossible to safeguard a nation's independence and sovereign rights, or to build a new society successfully.

Clearly aware of this truth from their actual experience, many countries in the world are engaged in a struggle to block the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration.

Above all, they are renewing their determination to fight against the imperialists' ideological and cultural offensive while remaining evermore vigilant.

The Singaporean minister of information and arts said in a speech that one cannot look on with indifference while the moral values and cultural legacies of the Asian people are being destroyed by the infiltration of the West's decadent culture. He stressed that the public information media in the ASEAN should join forces to counter the West's cultural offensive in the area of information. Noting that Western culture is filled with nothing but sex and violence, he declared that it should never be allowed to infiltrate unchecked.

At a meeting with radio and television broadcasters, the Indonesian information minister stressed that profound attention should be paid to the fact that violence and alien culture are having a bad influence on society, the young generation in particular.

Similar voices often ring out of international conference halls. The participants at the sixth summit of "French-speaking countries" discussed the problems of strengthening mutual ties and cooperation and countering the infiltration of pornographic culture. They unanimously called for a struggle against a "worldwide cultural monopoly" tinted with the U.S. cultural tone.

Many countries in the world are taking practical measures to block the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration.

Recently, the policy council of the Iranian Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee adopted measures to prevent the infiltration of foreign culture. Included are measures to prevent the infiltration of reactionary ideology and culture, elevate the country's cultural standard, and create a wholesome social atmosphere by frequently broadcasting mass discussion meetings.

The Iranian president promulgated a decree for implementing the "anti-satellite law." The law provides that all satellite antennas installed on rooftops be removed within a month, and that people who continue to maintain their dish antennas be punished.

Kenya has decided to subject all imported foreign films to censorship. Under this measure, a film censorship bureau has been set up. The bureau inspects all imported films to expunge portions incompatible with the cultural norms of the Kenyan people.

The Singapore government recently banned the distribution of erotic publications and stopped the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation from airing violent movies, and tightened control over movie makers, subjecting them to the rigid censorship procedures.

The Laotian ministry of information and culture has issued a bulletin on "bringing in and distributing at home various foreign books, newspapers, and printed matter." The bulletin notes that certain publications and printed matter that are incompatible with the cultural policy of the Laotian government and party have been illegally brought in and distributed in Laos in recent years. It stressed that measures would be taken to do away with this erratic practice and establish social order. According to the bulletin, every shipment and distribution of foreign publications requires the approval of the pertinent agency, and any violation of this requirement is subject to punishment under the law.

In some countries where capitalism has been reinstated, people are increasingly alert to the ideological and cultural infiltration of imperialism.

The Belorussian government has adopted a decision to establish a state registry for movie video tapes and movie video programs in order to ban the production, distribution, showing, and advertisement of pornographic literature and movies and publications fueling cruelty. In Bulgaria, the government has decided to enact a total ban on violent, erotic, and gambling scenes on television programs.

Small wonder many countries in the world are waging an active struggle to block the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration.

DPRK: Korean Youth in Japan Denounce Kim Yong-sam

SK1104105196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0840 GMT 11 Apr 96

["Kim Yong-sam Fascist Clique Denounced" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — A central meeting of Korean youth and students in Japan took place in Tokyo on April 8 to denounce the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique for having murdered No Su-sok, a student of Yonsei University of South Korea, Tokyo-based Korean news service reported.

Pak Ku-ho, chairman of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, in his report vehemently denounced the murderous Kim Yong-sam clique's brutal killing of student No Su-sok in the name of all the Korean youth and students in Japan.

He voiced full support and encouragement to South Korean students and people in their just struggle to overthrow the Kim Yong-sam fascist clique, the enemy of all the fellow countrymen, and win independence, democracy and reunification.

A letter of protest to the South Korean authorities was adopted at the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, the participants signed their names in a placard inscribed with words "Martyr No Su-sok will remain forever in the minds of the first generation of reunification in the North, the South and overseas", which would be sent to the General Student Council of Yonsei University.

DPRK: Hanchongnyon Chairman To 'Struggle' for Reunification

SK1104105296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0842 GMT 11 Apr 96

["'Hanchongnyon' Chairman Vows To Take Lead in Reunification Movement" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — Chong Myong-ki, chairman of the fourth-term South Korean Federation of University Student Councils (Hanchongnyon), reportedly vowed to take the lead in the struggle for the country's reunification.

Accusing the anti-reunification elements of suppressing anyone who talks about reunification, charging him or her with following the North, he said the people of the North are inseparable compatriots.

He expressed the determination to become a vanguard in the reunification movement on the basis of the efforts of students in the North and South for reunification and the achievements of Yim Su-kyong, Chong Min-chu and Yi Hye-chong, reflecting the students' desire to see the country reunified.

DPRK: Kim Yong-sam's 'Fascist Murderous Atrocities' Decried

SK1204040896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0403 GMT 12 Apr 96

["Kim Yong-sam Group's Fascist Murderous Atrocities Denounced" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The Korean Student Committee in a statement April 11 sharply denounced the South Korean puppet clique's brutal murder of the student No Su-sok, who joined in a peaceful demonstration, in the name of the entire students of the northern half of Korea, branding it as a despicable gangsterism without an iota of conscience and reason of mankind and a direct challenge to the South Korean students demanding independence, democracy and reunification.

It was only too natural that the South Korean students who are sensitive to justice and ardent for patriotism resolutely turned out in the struggle for ousting the Kim Yong-sam group and for achieving independence and democratization of society and reunification of the country, the statement said.

It continues:

The Kim Yong-sam group must know that the more harshly they suppress the just struggle of the students, the more quickly they will meet destruction.

If the Kim Yong-sam group do not want to suffer the same miserable end as the arch-traitor Syngman Rhee did, they should abandon suppression at once, make public the "presidential election" fund and step down from power immediately.

As students of the same blood, the entire students in the northern half of Korea express their firm resolution to actively support and encourage the struggle of the students in the South to bring a sledge-hammer upon the Kim Yong-sam fascist "civilian government" on any account and make them pay a thousand-fold price for the blood shed by the fighters fallen in the street of resistance, including the students No Su-sok and Kwon Hui-chong and, at the same time, to stand in the van of the reunification struggle in the future, too, alongside the southern students.

DPRK-Russia Joint Academic Seminar on Chuche Held 9 Apr

SK1104111096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0831 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — A joint academic seminar was co-sponsored here on April 9 by scholars of the chuche idea academy of Korea and the Moscow state university of Russia on the occasion of the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The seminar was attended by the chairman of the association of scientists for the study of human affairs in the present world, Prof. and Dr. Aleksandr Kovalryov at the Moscow State University, scholars of the university and Shuhachi Inoue, director general of the International Institute of the Chuche Idea, now staying in Korea.

Also attending there were vice-president of the chuche idea academy Han Su-kil and other Korean scholars.

The speakers said at the seminar that the current seminar will be conducive to more deeply studying, disseminating and actively propagating the chuche idea created by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the undying revolutionary achievements he had made for the history of ideologies of mankind as well as their greatness.

The speakers presented a.. in-depth proof of the idea that the philosophical principle of the chuche idea that man is the master of everything and decides everything is the one answering to the position and role of man in the world in conformity with the mission of the philosophy that should be conducive to shaping the destiny of mankind and that it is the one that generalized the essential charateristics of the present world on a scientific basis.

Pointing out that the basic socio-historical principle that the maker of history is the popular masses is derived from the philosophical principle of the chuche idea, the speakers unanimously defined the increase of social wealth and the improvement of social relations on the basis of, the development of independence, creativeness and consciousness of mankind as the basic law of social development.

Turning to the outlook on value of man, they noted that whatever value it is related to the demand of mankind and mankind is really the subject of value.

They spoke highly of the respected President Kim Il-song and the great Comrade Kim Chong-il as masters of ideologies and theories and great teachers of mankind who opened the most correct road of shaping the destiny of mankind.

The speakers said Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has been further developing and enriching the chuche idea, the guiding idea of the present era, is a great leader who is wisely leading the cause of mankind for independence with outstanding ideological and theoretical activities.

DPRK: Russian Vice Premier Pays Homage to Kim Il-song

SK1104111996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0945 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — The Government delegation of Russia led by Deputy Prime Minister V.N. Ignatenko today called at the Kumsusan Memorial Palace to pay homage to the Great Leader President Kim Il-song, who is preserved in state.

Present there were Vice-Premier Hong song-nam and Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev. The head of the delegation wrote in the visitor's book that the achievements made by His Excellency Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of

Korea, for the people are highly praised in the Russian Federation.

President Kim Il-song will remain a supporter of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples in the memory of the Russian people, he added.

DPRK: Kim Yong-nam Meets With Russian Deputy Foreign Minister

SK1204103996 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0956 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Kim Yong- nam, vice-premier and minister of foreign affairs, met and conversed with Alexandr Panov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, in a friendly atmosphere today.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu and Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev.

DPRK: Hong Song-nam Hosts Party for Russian Government Delegation

SK1204042196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0338 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Yuriy Fadeyev, Russian ambassador to Korea, gave a party at his embassy on Thursday [11 April] on the occasion of the visit of the Russian Government delegation to Korea.

Invited to the party were Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam, Vice- Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu, Vice-Chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Kim Chong-u and officials concerned.

Present there were the members of the government delegation of Russia led by Deputy Prime Minister V.N. Ignatenko.

V.N. Ignatenko and Hong Song-nam made speeches at the party.

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok Meets With Russian Deputy Premier

SK1204102896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0952 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Vice- President Yi Chong-ok met and had a friendly talk with the Russian Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister V.N. Ignatenko at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu, vice-chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Kim Chong-u and Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev.

DPRK-Russia Economic Protocol Signed

SK1204103396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0953 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — A protocol of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation was signed at the Mansudae Assembly Hall today.

It was signed by Vice-Premier Hong Song-nam and Deputy Prime Minister V.N. Ignatenko.

DPRK: Russian Government Delegation Departs After 3-Day Visit

SK1204103696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0955 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The Russian Government delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister V.N. Ignatenko left here today for home after its 3-day visit to Korea.

The delegation made the visit to attend the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Cooperation in Trade, Economy, Science and Technology between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Russian Federation.

It was seen off at the airport by Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Yi In-kyu, Vice-Chairman of the State External Economic Affairs Commission Kim Chong-u and Russian Ambassador to Korea Yuriy Fadeyev and his embassy officials.

During the stay, the guests visited Mangyongdae, the birthplace of the great leader President Kim Il-song, the Taedonggang Battery Factory and other places.

DPRK: Cambodia's Sihanouk Supports DPRK Policy for Reunification

SK1204100696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0815 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — King of Cambodia Norodom Sihanouk on April 8 said the Great Leader President Kim Il-song remains alive in the hearts of him and the Cambodian people and is immortal with humanity as he founded the chuche idea and performed enduring achievements in his lifetime.

When he met the Korean ambassador he said now the Great General Kim Chong-il is creditably carrying forward the noble cause of independence, sovereignty and prosperity of humankind started by President Kim Il-song.

He affirmed that Cambodia's stand to support the DPRK's policy for reunification and recognise only the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would remain unchanged as he had promised the great leaders.

DPRK: Palestinian, Iranian Ambassadors Visit Museum

SK1204092896 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0813 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Foreign military attaches in Korea, Palestinian Ambassador to Korea Shahir Muhammad and his embassy officials visited the Korean Revolution Museum and Iranian Ambassador to Korea Seyyed Morteza Mirheydari and officials of his embassy visited the Chonsung Revolutionary Museum on Thursday on the threshold of the birth anniversary of the Great Leader President Kim Il-song.

DPRK: Kazakh Friendship Delegation Arrives 11 Apr

SK1104110396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Kazakhstan Association of Fcriendship and Culture Liaison With Foreign Countries and the Kazakhstan-Korea Friendship Association led by Zhibek Amerkhanova [name as received], chairperson of the Kazakhstan Association of Friendship and Culture Liaison With Foreign Countries, arrived here today.

DPRK: Kazakh Delegation Pays Homage to Kim Il-song at Mansu Hill

SK1204041796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0330 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — A delegation of the Kazakhstan Association of Friendship and Culture Liaison With Foreign Countries and the Kazakhstan-Korea Friendship Association led by Zhibek Amerkhanova [spelling of name as received], chairperson of the Kazakhstan Association of Friendship and Culture Liaison With Foreign Countries, visited the statue of the great leader President Kim Il-song on Mansu Hill on Thursday [11 April].

The guests laid floral bunches of flowers and made a bow before his statue.

DPRK: Lao Prime Minister Receives WPK Delegation 5 Apr

SK1104133796 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 8 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and prime minister, received the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] delegation led by Hyon Chun-kuk, director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, which is visiting Laos, on 5 April.

During the meeting, the head of the delegation conveyed the Great Leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's greetings to Chairman Khamtai Siphandon. The chairman expressed deep gratitude, and asked the head of the delegation to convey his warm greetings to the Great Leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The chairman said that the Lao party, government, and people always adhere to a position of strengthening and developing friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK party, government, and people. He emphasized that the party and government of Laos wholly support the policy of the DPRK party and government.

DPRK: New Ambassador Presents Credentials to Peru President

SK1104132396 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] (Yi In-chun), newly appointed DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary, presented his credentials to Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori Fujimori on 2 April.

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed the Great Leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il's greetings to President Alberto Fujimori Fujimori. The president expressed deep gratitude, and asked the ambassador to convey his warm greetings to the Great Leader [widaehan yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The president said there is no change in Peru's position to develop friendly relations with the DPRK. He pointed out that he hopes that there will be greater results in the DPRK people's struggle under the leadership of the respected Marshal His Excellency Kim Chong-il. He said he hopes peace will be achieved on the Korean Peninsula. The Peruvian foreign minister participated in the meeting.

DPRK: Premier Kang Sends Greetings to Equatorial Guinea Premier

SK1104110196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0850 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — Kang Song- san, premier of the Administration Council, sent a message of greetings to Angel Serafin Seriche Dougan [name as received] upon his appointment as prime minister of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

The message expressed the belief that the good friendly and cooperative relations between the DPRK and Equatorial Guinea will continue to develop and wished him great success in his work.

DPRK Meeting Marks 16th Anniversary of Republic of Zimbabwe

SK1204033596 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0322 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — A meeting was held in Pyongyang on April 11 on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Present there were Choe Song-sok, chairperson of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea and chairperson of the Korea-Zimbabwe Friendship Association, officials concerned and working people in the city.

A message of greetings to the president of Zimbabwe was adopted following a speech.

DPRK: Chang Chol Meets Visitors Participating in Spring Festival

SK1204035796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0324 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Vice- Premier and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol met and had a talk in an atmosphere of compatriotic feelings with So Sang-kak, head of the art troupe of the Korean Residents in Japan; Om Kyong-sim, head of the art troupe of the International Korean Association (Unity); Om Sun-cha, head of the art troupe of the Korean residents in China; Hong Chong-cha, head of the art troupe of the Korean residents in the United States; and leading artistes at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre on Thursday [11 April].

They are participating in the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

DPRK: Korean Athletes Qualify for 26th Summer Olympics

SK1204035396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0329 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — Korean athletes obtained the qualifications to participate in the 26th summer olympic games, by making fine records at international games.

Among them are boys Kim Song-hui and Choe Kyong-sop and girls Kim Hyon-hui, Kim Hyang-mi and Tu Chong-sil, who showed high techniques at the Asian regional table tennis preliminaries held in Chiba, Japan, and people's athlete title holders Kim Il and Yi Yong-sam, who won in the 48-kilogram and 57-kilogram freestyle wrestling events at the 12th Asian wrestling championship held in Xiaoshan, China.

Kang Yong-gyun was also qualified for the games, after finishing second in the greco-roman 48 kg event.

Two weightlifters obtained qualifications for the games by placing second in the final men's team placings at the 28th Asian weightlifting championship held in Japan.

DPRK: Issue of Japan's War Compensation Discussed at UN

SK1104103396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0825 GMT 11 Apr 96

["Japan Urged to Make State Compensation for Past Crimes" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — The 52d meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights discussed a report on the 47th meeting of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Appointed at the 47th meeting held last year was a special rapporteur in charge of the study of wartime rape and sexual slavery such as the crime concerning the "comfort women for the army" perpetrated by the Japanese Army in World War II and a resolution urging the Japanese Government to liquidate its crimes was adopted at the 48th and 49th meetings.

In his speech the delegate of the DPRK Measure Committee for Demanding Compensation to "Comfort Women for the Army" and the Victims of the Pacific War, said the resolution is of weighty importance in wreaking the grudge of many victims who are demanding the restoration of justice which has been trampled down by Japan's irresponsible attitude towards the liquidation of the past and the restoration of their violated honor, dignity and body and in establishing a fair international law and order.

He further said:

If Japan continues arrogant acts, ignoring the world's reasonable demand and the desire of the victims, it will meet bitterer condemnation from the peoples in Asia and the rest of the world, far from getting a permanent seat in the United Nations security council.

The Japanese Government must immediately liquidate the past crimes in state compensation in line with international principles and the UN resolution.

The secretary general of the Koreans' side of the Fact-Finding Group of the Forcible Drafting of Koreans said in his speech that the Japanese Government has still legalized Japan's colonial rule over Korea, insisting that the forcible labor and sexual slavery were legal.

He called on the commission to respect the resolution of the Sub- Commission on Wartime Rape and Sexual Slavery and support the efforts for its implementation.

Jieko Takei, co-representative of Japan's non-governmental organizations, urged the Japanese Government to lend an ear to the just voices of victims rejecting the "non-governmental fund", apologize to them and decide on compensation to be made to them.

DPRK: Various Foreign Plants 'Blooming' for Kim Il-song

SK1104103196 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0817 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — Various kinds of plants which were sent to the great leader President Kim Il-song from many countries have come into bloom in Korea.

More than 3,500 plants of some 1,200 kinds were presented to him by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, former Malagasy President Didier Ratsiraka, other foreign party and state leaders, senior officials and compatriots in South Korea and overseas.

With the approach of the April holiday, they have been blooming around his statues and in time-honored Mangyongdae where the president was born, revolutionary sites and battle sites throughout the country.

The visitors to Mangyongdae feel glad to see the full-blown flowers which are emitting fragrance, reflecting all the people's deep reverence for the sun of chuche.

The plants which are growing in all parts of the country are delighting the Korean people, who are commemorating the birth anniversary of the president.

DPRK: Foreign Acrobats Honor Kim Il-song

SK1004225696 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0951 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 10 (KCNA) — Performances were given at circus theatres here on Tuesday by acrobats from different countries within the framework of the 14th April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

The excellent numbers, which show high artistic ability, bold and swift technique and tested skill, left deep impressions on the spectators.

An international circus festival winner and his wife from Bulgaria performed "revolving plastic etude in flight", in which they skillfully conducted difficult technical movements.

In "Triad Plastic Etude" Chinese acrobats successfully conducted the technically difficult movements. They showed perilous scenes, in which they turned themselves over, each with three-stage glass cups on two hands, the soles of feet and the head while lying on the back.

Vietnamese acrobats represented, through high technique, skillful plastic etude and tested movements full of vigor, the martial art which has been widely propagated among nations in the east.

With a placard reading "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Will Always Be With Us" held, they expressed their reverence for him.

Egyptian acrobats conducted, through trained technique, handstanding feats on piled chairs with four bottles as supporters.

Put on stages were also colorful numbers showing high artistic ability and tested skill such as "Handstanding Somersault Feats" by the Cuban circus group, "Hand Feats" by the Slovak circus group, a magic "Appearance of Balls" by an international magic festival winner and his wife of Kazakhstan and "Twin Plastic Etude" by Mongolian girls.

DPRK: Documentary Film on Kim Il-song Released

SK1204095496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The documentary film "The Fatherly Leader With Workers" has been released in Korea on the threshold of the 84th birth anniversary of the Great Leader President Kim Il-song.

The film is based on energetic activities of President Kim Il- song, who had given on-the-spot guidance to industrial establishments throughout the country from the period of the postwar rehabilitation to the last period of his great life.

He visited many factories and enterprises to inspire workers with revolutionary faith and courage, shape state policies on the basis of their desire and successfully lead the revolution and construction.

From the day when he participated in the celebration of the victory in the fatherland liberation war, he continued on-site guidance to industrial establishments in all parts of the country.

Encouraged by his on-the-spot guidance, the heroic workers built furnaces, fertilizer factories and smelters in different parts of the country and made lorries, tractors, and electric locomotives with their efforts and technology, creating a new history of great creation and construction in this land.

His deep care also reached the remote control room of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, Ore Dressing Plant No. 3 of the Komdok Mining Complex, which set an example in creating the "80s' speed", and the 10,000-ton press, a gigantic structure of the Workers' Party era.

Through the course of the creation of the Taean work system, a new economic management system, the film shows that he, with a great idea of "believing in the people as in heaven," always mixed himself with workers and found a solution in their simple opinion and creative initiatives.

The film also shows that the respected President Kim Il-song devoted his whole life to the revolutionary cause of the working class, always finding himself among the workers and sharing thick and thin with them, and that his exploits will be immortal with the country.

DPRK: Chang Chol Attends Opening of National Photo Exhibition

SK1204033096 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0326 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — A national photo exhibition opened here on Thursday [11 April] to commemorate the 84th birth anniversary of the great leader President Kim Il- song.

Displayed were more than 110 items of photos showing enduring achievements performed by the president and the struggle of working people from all walks of life who firmly consolidate the three bases of Korean-style socialism including a photo "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Giving Important Teachings to Officials" (July 6, 1994), a photo "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Giving On- the-Spot Guidance to the Tanchon Magnesia Factory" and a photo "The Great Leader Comrade Kim Il-song Inspecting Farm To Know Crop Condition of New Species of Rice".

Present at the opening ceremony were Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Minister of Culture and Art Chang Chol, officials concerned, professional and amateur photographers and working people in Pyongyang.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Gift to Centenarian

SK1204100496 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0819 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The Great Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a centennial birthday table to a woman Yi Yong-kyu residing in Changhun-tong No. 2 in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

The birthday table was handed to her on Thursday.

Born into a poor family in Kanggye City, Chagang Province, she underwent all manner of maltreatment and humiliation until she could lead a worthy life under the care of the republic, which was founded by the Great Leader President Kim Il-song.

The average life expectancy and the number of macrobians are on the increase now in Korea, thanks to the social policies for improvement of people's living standard and the superior free medical system.

DPRK: Cho Myong-nok, Kim Kwang-chin Speak at 10 Apr Symposium

SK1104102796 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0813 GMT 11 Apr 96

["Symposium of Ministry of People's Armed Forces on President Kim Il-song's Greatness" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — A symposium on the greatness of the respected leader President Kim Il-song was held by the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces on April 10.

Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army [KPA] Cho Myong-nok, director of the General Political Department of the KPA, KPA Vice Marshal Kim Kwang-chin, first vice-minister of the People's Armed Forces, General Kim Ha-kyu and Colonel General Pak Chae-kyong took the floor.

They said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song performed immortal revolutionary exploits for the history of the Korean revolution and the world revolution for a protracted historic period through his extraordinary ideological and theoretical activities and great revolutionary practice.

The chuche idea founded by the great leader is the eternal guiding idea which brightly indicates the way of humankind. They noted.

They explained that Comrade Kim Il-song pioneered and successfully realized the cause of building the revolutionary Armed Forces of chuche-type for the first time in human history, especially in the history of the revolutionary struggle of the working class.

They stressed that he brought up the Korean people to be a people with strong independence, a people trusting only the party and the leader and sharing the destiny with them and a people with a high sense of obligation who help and lead forward each other.

Comrade Kim Il-song is a great sage who cannot be seen again in history, they said, adding that he devoted his whole life to endless prosperity of the country and eternal happiness of the people with the noblest human love, boundlessly broad magnanimity, warm tolerance, deep modesty and simplicity.

They stressed the need to staunchly fight for national reunification and the completion of the revolutionary cause of chuche, united around the respected Supreme Commander Comrade Kim Chong-il in one mind, upholding the red flag of revolution which is associated with the whole life of Comrade Kim Il-song.

Present at the symposium were Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and minister of the People's Armed Forces, KPA generals and officers.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Birthday Table to 70-Year-Old Doctor

SK0604095096 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0935 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a dinner table to "Kim Il-song Prize" winner, Labour Hero and people's doctor Prof. and Dr. Sin Song-u, who is director of the Hamhung Traumatic and Orthopedic Hospital, on his 70th birthday.

The birthday table was conveyed to him on April 5.

Born into a poor peasant family in North Chungchong Province of South Korea, Sin Song-u began to lead a true life when he was active as a surgeon of the Korean People's Army, embraced by the great leader President Kim Il-song during the fatherland liberation war.

President Kim Il-song highly praised sin for reviving a boy seriously burnt all over the body in the early 1960s. Sin has greatly contributed to the development of the nation's medical science and technology by studying and completing more than 50 operation methods in the course of defending and implementing the chuche-based policy of public health of the Workers' Party of Korea.

He put big efforts into training reserves and brought up five doctors, over 40 associate doctors and many orthopedists.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Sends Acacia Saplings to Academy

SK0604050396 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0428 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il on April 4 sent 50,000 pink flower acacia saplings to the National Academy of Sciences.

The saplings are associated with his great hope that the scientists will enjoy a cultured life to their heart's content at the modernly-equipped picturesque scientific research centres and achieve greater successes in their scientific research.

Planted in the area of 45 hectares in the academy were more than 120,000 trees of over 580 kinds. The academy has a garden complex with a flower garden of more than 64,000 square metres, six lotus ponds and a zoological garden. They serve for rest and cultured life of scientists.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, giving on-the-spot guidance to the academy on April 28 last year, said that a better environment of scientific research should be provided to scientists by covering the science quarters with green foliage. True to his teachings, the academy employees planted in the science quarters more than 42,000 trees in autumn last year and over 8,800 trees in spring this year.

DPRK: NODONG SINMUN Article Lauds Chuche Tradition, Kim Chong-il

SK1104105496 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0849 GMT 11 Apr 96

["Traditions of Chuche, Eternal Lifeline of Korean Revolution" — KCNA headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 11 (KCNA) — NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article titled "Traditions of Chuche, Eternal Lifeline of Korean Revolution."

The article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Our party's traditions of chuche are the great Comrade Kim Il- song's ideology and theory, his revolutionary exploits and struggle experience, and his method of work. They are unboundedly rich and valuable and have an everlasting vitality for the strengthening and development of our party and for the victory of our revolution, because they were established in the midst of a prolonged, unprecedentedly acute and complex struggle."

The article further says:

Traditions of chuche are the most precious traditions established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song all his life.

Without him it was impossible to pave the cause of chuche and bring about its triumphant advance. So, chuche traditions of our party and people are unthinkable without his guidance.

Traditions of chuche are the everlasting lifeline of our revolution. The respected Comrade Kim Chong-il is creditably carrying forward and steadily developing and enriching them.

The chuche idea, the guiding idea of our revolution, is a precious ideological and moral wealth; Comrade Kim Il-song founded the idea and Comrade Kim Chong-il has constantly developed and enriched it as the guiding idea of the times. The great achievements and experience and all wealth gained in the efforts to build a chuche-based party, power and revolutionary armed forces are the results of the guidance of the two leaders.

Traditions of chuche are great in that they are replete with independence and creation and they have been established in advancing the revolution and construction on the strength of the great harmonious whole of the leader, the party and masses.

They also are great and invincible in that they are an encyclopaedic wealth of exceptionally rich and profound content because they have been established in carrying on the most arduous and complex Korean revolution that paved an untrodden road in our era.

With the traditions of chuche established by the two great leaders the Korean people have been able to vigorously advance along the most straight road to realise independence of the popular masses under the uplifted banner of chuche in a very difficult situation; they have been able to work miracles of the century and perform feats in consummating the Korean-style socialism.

Steadfast defence and inheritance of the great traditions of chuche is the only way of safeguarding the lifeline of the Korean revolution and achieving the prosperity and development of our country and motherland; it is a sure guarantee for accelerating the reunification of the country and the cause of global independence.

For the Korean people to carry forward the traditions of chuche with credit is precisely a noble undertaking for the immortality of Comrade Kim Il-song and the most honorable and worthwhile work for upholding the ideology and guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il with loyalty and carrying to completion the cause of chuche down through generations, adds the article.

DPRK: Kim Chong-il Thanks Officials, Working People, Servicemen

SK1204032296 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0318 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 12 (KCNA) — The great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to officials and employees of the Changpung County Commercial Management Office, Kaesong Municipality, 135 family members of workers of Onjong Pit of the Chonchon United Coal Mine, medical workers of the Chagang Provincial People's Hospital, researchers of Chongsong University and employees of the Sinuiju Store for their contribution to society and collective.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army [KPA], also sent thanks to officers of the headquarters of the Kim To-u Unit and the Yi Chu-man Unit of the KPA and soldiers of the Kim Yong-kuk unit in praise of what they did for Army-people unity.

DPRK Army-People Unity Praised

962C0030B Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 22 Dec 95 p 2

[Article by Kim Chae-pok: "Loving and Positively Aiding the People's Army Is Our People's Noble Feature"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today in our country, with the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il as its supreme commander, all the people are giving fuller play to their spirit of loving and positively aiding the people's army as days go by.

Wherever there are people and army troops, there are admirable instances of full-blown army-people unity, moving the hearts of people and further solidifying the kindred ties between the army and the people into a relationship that no force can break.

As the people's army is developing onto new higher levels with no letup, based on the revolutionary aid-the-army tradition forged in the anti-Japanese flames, the laudable virtue of loving and aiding the army has become a proud facet of our society today.

The great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out:

"It is for ourselves that we love and aid our army."

For a people fighting for socialism, it is the greatest honor and pride to cherish and love their revolutionary army as they would their own flesh and blood, and to aid it wholeheartedly.

A revolutionary army can continue to grow and develop only by its people's positive support and encouragement. When all of its people cherish, love, and aid it wholeheartedly, it develops deeper awareness of its lofty mission to serve its party and leader, its fatherland and people, even more devotedly. An army enjoying the absolute support and encouragement of its people, and forming a complete, harmonious whole with its people, can be ever-victorious in its fighting with the enemy and can defend the revolutionary cause reliably.

In the past, the anti-Japanese guerrillas, upholding the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, crushed the brigandish Japanese imperialists who were armed to the teeth, and achieved the historic cause of national liberation. Also, our people's army repelled the armed aggression of the world's "mightiest" U.S. imperialists, and honorably defended the freedom and independence of the fatherland. All this would have been impossible if it had not been for the people's positive support and encouragement. The history of our ever-victorious people's army is the history of the kindred ties between the army and the people that strengthened ceaselessly under the leadership of the great leader. And it is the history of our people's noble ideological, mental charactaristic of devotion to the people's army that continued to develop onto new higher levels.

Today our people are doing everything in their power to aid the warriors of the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, with the belief that it is their sacred responsibility and befitting duty to do so.

The laudable virtue of cherishing and loving the people's army and aiding it positively, which is prevalent among our people, is above all a revelation of their noble ideological thought that members of the people's army are warriors of the respected and beloved commander in chief [changgun-nim]. Whether or not an army is loved and supported by its people depends on what type of leader [yongdoja] it has as its supreme commander. When an army is led by a supreme commander having the infinite respect and trust of his people, and their boundless adoration and loyality, it will of course enjoy the love, support, and encouragement, of the people. A revolutionary army is essentially the army of the leader [suryong], and the army of the party. When it has a great and peerless leader [yongdoja] as its supreme commander, the people come to love it all the more. And they will unite with it wholeheartedly and fight on. It is because, in upholding the great leader [yongdoja], the army and the people are revolutionary comrades and comrades in arms with each other.

Our people's army has the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il—who is the great leader [yongdoja] and benevolent father of our party and people—as its supreme commander.

The respected and beloved commander in chief, above all, cherishes and loves the warriors of the people's army, kindly looking after their work and livelihood with the heart of a true father all the time. When he hears good news, he first thinks of the people's army warriors. His mind is always on them, worrying if they have any inconveniences in the military life. At the same time, he gives them great prominence for whatever feats they perform. Infinite indeed is the love of the respected and beloved commander in chief for his warriors. Among other things, he spent the New Year's Day with warriors of the people's army, visiting a women's shore battery, a marine corps unit, and the Choe Chon-yon outpost, braving the chilly midwinter sea wind, and bringing his great trust and love to the officers and men of the people's army. Our people, looking up to the benevolent image of the respected and beloved commander in chief—who always puts himself among the people's army warriors, listening to the unsophisticated songs they sing, staying with them both in joy and sorrow—feel keenly in their hearts how deeply the commander in chief cherishes and loves the warriors.

Because the respected and beloved commander in chief cherishes the people's army warriors so profoundly, our people render positive aid to them, seeing them as their flesh and blood. It is our people who would first look for warriors of the people's army when they have good news, who would often have sleepless nights thinking of soldiers manning outposts in the midst of a blizzard, and who are always willing to sacrifice themselves for them. To our people, loving and positively aiding the people's army is the way to uphold the ideology and the will of the respected and beloved commander in chief. For them, it is a sacred effort to get the love and solicitude of the commander in chief for the people's army warriors to reach them more effectively.

The traditional, laudable virtue of army-people unity being displayed widely by our people is also based on their solid perception that the people's army is the protector of the peace of the fatherland and the creator of the happiness of the people.

The ideological thought of a people who love and positively aid their army is not something that they can be forced to display by any control or coercion. Depending on how they view their army, the army can either have their love and support or become the target of their hatred and denunciation. An army that enjoys its people's love and support is precisely the revolutionary army truly serving the interests of its fatherland and people, the army of the people. The people would come around to cherish, love, and aid wholeheartedly the revolutionary army that fights with invulnerability to defend the peace and sovereignty of the fatherland and that struggles devotedly for the happiness of the people.

Our people's army is the genuine people's army, safeguarding the defense lines of the fatherland as firm as an impregnable fortress and, at the same time, voluntarily taking upon itself difficult and demanding tasks of socialist construction and making breakthroughs, holding aloft the slogan "Let Us Do It All, Be It the Defense of the Fatherland or Socialist Construction." Our people's army warriors unhesitatingly sacrifice themselves to defend the lives and property of the people. They see it as a matter of course to give the people a helping hand. When they see a downed corn plant or a broken ridge between rice fields, they simply cannot leave it alone. They would walk hundreds of ri's a night looking for a lost cow for members of a cooperative farm. The fact that we have so many "army-people fields" and "army-people reservoirs" all over the country today tells a great deal about the extent of devotion to the people on the part of our military personnel.

Our people, in the course of the prolonged struggle which they waged hand in hand with our people's army, have keenly felt that the people's army is the very invincible, mightiest army that can resolutely crush any aggressive maneuvers of the enemy to defend the fatherland, and that it is the true army of the people devoting everything it has to the prosperity, strengthening, and development of the fatherland, and to the happiness of the people. Therefore, they consider it their befitting duty and revolutionary responsibility to aid the army positively.

Today our people are mounting vigorous activities to aid members of the people's army. The fact that countless people came from all parts of the country to render positive support, both materially and morally, to servicemen mobilized in the Chongnyu bridge second-phase project and the Kumnung No. 2 Cavern construction under orders of the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, speaks eloquently of the devotion of our people to the people's army. It is a noble, laudable virtue that can be demonstrated only by our people, who believe steadfastly that their people's army is the truly revolutionary army, the army of the people, firmly defending the gains of the revolution and creating the people's happiness.

The laudable virtue of aiding the people's army positively, which is prevalent among our people, is a brilliant embodiment of the ideology of army-people unity put forth by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il has sagaciously led the campaign to inherit and develop brilliantly the revolutionary aid-the-army tradition created during the anti-Japanese armed struggle. The respected and beloved Comrade Kim Chong-il initiated the movement to win the title of Army-People Unity Model County, ensuring that the laudable virtue of loving and positively aiding the people's army is turned into an all-people campaign. Even for small acts of party members and working people, which are symbolic of army-people unity, he highly appreciated and sent them letters of gratitude, seeing to it that the laudable virtue of army-people unity permeates the whole nation. Today, in our country, the "our post-our village" and "our village-our post" movements are in full swing, demonstrating the kindred ties between the people and the people's army personnel, and the army and people are firmly defending—and adding luster to—our way of socialism in one and the same mind. We owe all this to the energetic leadership of the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

In the future too, our people will continue to acquit themselves fully of their revolutionary duty by cherishing, loving, and aiding wholeheartedly the warriors of the respected and beloved supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il, and to safeguard socialism and push forward the revolution and construction vigorously with the might of the wholehearted unity between the army and the people.

DPRK: Article Criticizes Bourgeois Moral Standard

962C0043B Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 5 Jan 96 p 6

[Article by Choe Song-kuk: "Bourgeois Morals Fanning the Dog-Eat-Dog Struggle for Existence"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The imperialists and their spokesmen preach the "superiority" of bourgeois morals for the purpose of giving people an illusory view of capitalism and corrupting them mentally and morally. However, this preaching is nothing but falsehood, deception, and an affront to the lofty moral principles of mankind.

In his immortal classic "It Is a Lofty Moral Duty for Revolutionaries To Respect Revolutionary Elders," the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out as follows:

"Bourgeois morals drive people into a dog-eat-dog struggle for existence and reduce them to slaves of mammonism who do not hesitate to go back on man's rudimentary conscience for money."

In this masterpiece, the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il scientifically elucidated the reactionary and harmful nature of bourgeois morals and refuted the sophistry about the "superiority" of bourgeois morals, thereby serving a blow to imperialists' machinations to corrupt and deprave people mentally and morally and attain ulterior political goals by spreading such morals overseas. This dictum is of great theoretical and practical significance in waging the struggle to arrest and frustrate the imperialist's maneuvers for ideological and cultural infiltration and their strategy of bringing about the ideological and political collapse of [socialist countries], the struggle for which is intensifying with increasing craftiness and viciousness.

Having a clear perception of the antipopular and immoral nature of bourgeois arises as one of the important problems in eliminating the illusions about capitalism and blocking the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration.

As elucidated by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, there is no room for true ethics to develop and hold sway in an exploitative society where money is everything; and bourgeois morals are reactionary in nature as they drive people into a dog-eat-dog struggle for existence.

Bourgeois morals are "morals" peculiar to capitalist society. Bourgeois morals are, in a word, the norm of life and the rule of behavior for the bourgeoisie, characterized by bourgeois ideology all the way. Bourgeois morals—which were originated by the capitalist class in the period in which the capitalist mode of production was forged after the feudal economic relations had collapsed—have become increasingly reactionary as they served as an instrument for the bourgeoisie in maintaining and solidifying capitalist relations of exploitation and promoting its interests. In the past, there were various types of reactionary morals in human society. But none of theme were as evil and corrupt as bourgeois morals. In other words, bourgeois morals are the most reactionary and anti-popular morals in human history. Bourgeois morals regard it as a "moral standard" that the bourgeoisie amass wealth by making fools of and preying upon others, exercise privileges by the power of money, and live in splendor. Bourgeois morals find the yardstick for the moral valuation of human behavior in the "individual will" and "absolute freedom" of capitalists. Bourgeois morals preach depravity. That is what bourgeois morals are all about. The capitalists preach that every action that helps to increase capital and profits and accumulate unlimited wealth is ethical, whereas every behavior to the contrary is immoral. So preaching, they are advocating a search for personal interests and individual wealth.

Bourgeois morals are bound to drive people to a dog-eat-dog competition for existence.

A dog-eat-dog competition for existence is the universal way and pattern of life in capitalist society. The reason is that the interests of the people are in conflict with one another, because capitalist society is based on the extreme egoism of the individuals. In capitalist society people regard as their paramount goal and set as their lifetime objective accumulating and enjoying a great measure of wealth and power. That is why in capitalist society, people engage in fierce competition in search of selfish interests and personal wealth. There, the one with a greater power of money becomes the victor. The weak are destined to be eaten by the strong.

Bourgeois morals regard this dog-eat-dog competition for existence as "moral behavior." People immersed in the bourgeois conception of morality in capitalist society would go to any lengths to gain the upper hand over others and monopolize power and wealth, making seeking self-interests and making money the absolute rule of conduct. It is a well-known fact that in capitalist society, fierce electoral races and struggles for power routinely take place among different descriptions of bourgeois political parties, organizations, and politicians. They criticize one another, and even do not hesitate to resort to terrorism. In capitalist society there are numerous cases of bourgeois politicians who fell victims to terrorism committed by their opponents in an attempt to monopolize power. In Russia a politician running for a parliamentary seat was assassinated.

In capitalist society, the unlimited exploitation and plunder of the laboring masses by the capitalists is viewed as a behavior incompatible with moral principles in capitalist society because bourgeois morals regards the acts of accumulating capital and expanding profits as ethical. Even among the bourgeois, undercover struggles and competition are intensifying for the monopoly of the market and greater profits. In this strife, those capitalists with a relatively small capital, as well as small and medium-size entrepreneurs, are sacrificed, and even big corporations sometimes go bankrupt and out of existence.

All kinds of cajolery and deception, fraud and trickery, greed and plunder, are the ingredients of bourgeois morals. From this it follows that in capitalist society it is regarded as a normal behavior not contrary to ethics to cajole and cheat others, commit fraud and swindle, and even murder. This has something to do with the fact that today, in capitalist society, all kinds of irregularities are rampant and moral depravity has reached an extreme. Not even the slightest particle of rudimentary human conscience can be found among people contaminated by bourgeois morals. There is antagonism and jealousy between parents and children, between brothers, between relatives, not to mention between strangers. They give each other cuffs and butts, and even kill each other.

According to the logic and thought of the bourgeois sophists, human beings have "individual freedom" and "an unlimited freedom of action"; "men are wolves to each other;" and a struggle for existence in search for selfish objectives and demands is an "inevitable phenomenon" of human society, propelling social development. They preach that it falls within the bounds of moral behavior for people to make "desperate efforts" to tear each other asunder and sacrifice one another for selfish interests and for the "purpose of life." This, in essence, is aimed at justifying bourgeois morals and instilling the bourgeois conception of morality and ethics in the minds of people in order to turn them into inhumane beings, that is, animals, and actively drive them into a dog-eat-dog struggle for existence.

As elucidated by the great leader [yongdoja] Comrade Kim Chong-il, in capitalist society, all kinds of social evils hold sway; a corrupt and decadent lifestyle is rampant; and these evils and lifestyle are being fostered by the reactionary ruling clique. As a result, in capitalist society there is a brutal way of existence or way of life that is beyond comprehension by human conscience and reason, and it is getting worse with time.

By spreading such corrupt bourgeois morals not only within their own borders but also overseas, the imperialists and their spokesmen are trying to justify their policy of domination and their human rights violations. They maintain that international relations are based on strength; accordingly, the strong and big countries have the right to control and dominate the weak, small ones. They describe as a "morally sacred act" the punishment of countries refusing to accept Western democracy. This is nothing but a trick to embellish bourgeois morals, which encroaches and tramples upon the independent demands and interests of the masses of people, and thus justify their aggressive behavior and their policy of domination.

The yardstick for measuring the progressiveness of morals is the independent demands and interests of the masses. The independent demands and interests of the masses are not only the political standard of judgement distinguishing between progressives and reactionaries, but also the moral standard of judgement distinguishing between good and evil. To dominate, control, and plunder other countries and peoples runs counter to the independent demands and interests of the masses, because to do so amounts to a behavior trampling upon the independent stand and attitude of the masses.

Bourgeois morals are not morals in the proper sense of the words, and the dog-eat-dog struggle for existence intensified by bourgeois morals is incompatible with the inherent demands of the masses.

The imperialists are trying hard to whitewash bourgeois morals in an attempt to cover up the reactionary nature and moral depravity of capitalism. However, this is a foolish, futile effort. Bourgeois morals, which give birth to all kinds of social evils and moral degradation, can never ever be justified.

DPRK: Pomchonghangnyon Conducts 'Joint Tree-Planting'

SK0604045796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0343 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — A joint planting of trees by the National Alliance of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghangnyon) took place at Kim Hyong-chik University of Education to demonstrate the desire for great national unity and confederal reunification of the country.

The joint tree-planting, held by the decision of the 4th executive committee meeting of Pomchonghangnyon, is part of the activities intended to fully display the strong and unanimous will of youth and students in the North, South and overseas to reunify the country by great national unity without fail.

Present there were members of the North side headquarters of Pomchonghangnyon and leading officials, teachers and students of the university.

The participants planted azalea in the shape of the letters "independent reunification" in the university garden, which reflect the unanimous will of youth and students in the northern half of the country to make this year a "year of peace and great national unity" and devote their youthful zeal to the struggle for national reunification.

DPRK: Yi Chong-ok, Kim Yong-nam, Others Plant Trees on 5 Apr

SK0604040796 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0335 GMT 6 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pyongyang, April 6 (KCNA) — Senior party and government officials planted trees around the Kumsusan Memorial Palace and on Mangyong Hill on April 5 on the occasion of Tree-Planting Day.

Yi Chong-ok, Kim Pyong-sik, Kim Yong-nam and other senior party and government officials planted pine-nut trees on the time-honored sacred places of the revolution, together with working people and youth and students in Pyongyang.

Recollecting the historic day when the great leader President Kim Il-song climbed Munsu Hill on April 6, 1947 and kindled the first torchlight of afforestation, they renewed their ardent resolve to devote themselves to the development and prosperity of the socialist country, united around the great leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in one mind.

South Korea

ROK Dailies Note Foreign Reaction to DPRK Incursion Into DMZ

SK1204084496

[FBIS Report] The following is a compilation of editorials carried in Seoul vernacular newspapers on 11 April regarding world reaction to the recent intrusion by North Korean armed troops into the DMZ in violation of the Armistice Agreement.

The moderate TONG-A ILBO carries a 700-word editorial titled "Russia's Efforts to Persuade North Korea." The editorial begins by noting Russian Vice Foreign Minister Alexandr Panov's arrival in Pyongyang on 10 April. The editorial notes that Panov's visit to North Korea is part of Russia's diplomatic efforts to resolve the tensions created by North Korea's renunciation of its duties pursuant to the Armistice Agreement and the intrusion of its military troops into Panmunjom. It stresses that "the Russian vice foreign minister's visit to Pyongyang this time draws our special attention as the visit was made at a time when the UN Security Council has adopted current tensions on the Korean Peninsula as an urgent agenda item to be discussed at the council."

The editorial also notes the Russian Foreign Ministry's 9 April statement calling for the need to maintain the present Armistice Agreement until a new peace mechanism is established between North and South Korea. The editorial concludes by saying: "However, considering the fact that Russia has no ability to assist North Korea economically at present and there are limits to Russia's influence over North Korea, we cannot help but wait to see North Korea's attitude toward Russia's efforts."

The moderate CHUNGANG ILBO carries a 600-word editorial titled: "North Korea Should Listen to World Public Opinion." The editorial notes the PRC and Russia's critical attitude toward the recent intrusion by North Korean military troops into Panmunjom and states that the Pyongyang authorities should listen to the world's reactions to their military actions trampling underfoot the Armistice Agreement in Panmunjom."

The editorial declares that "North Korea's intent to gain something from the United States or from our government by illegally deploying armed military troops in Panmunjom is foolish."

Describing the United States' critical reactions to North Korea's renunciation of its duties pursuant to the Armistice Agreement and to the intrusion of its armed military troops into the Joint Security Area of Panmunjom, the editorial also points out the present close cooperation between the ROK and the United States in coping with the tensions created on the Korean Peninsula and stresses: "North Korea's violent acts perpetrated in Panmunjom this time have further evoked distrust and vigilance from the United States, and this would result in further weakening North Korea's position in future talks with the United States."

In conclusion, warning North Korea that "it is indeed foolish and is a big miscalculation if the armed demonstration in Panmunjom this time is aimed at testing and weakening the existing cooperation and joint defense systems between the ROK and the United States," the editorial declares that all facts show that North Korea's violent acts have proceeded from a delusion and are like "a frog in the well" and stresses that "North Korea should carefully listen to world opinion in order to survive as a state."

ROK Editorial: DPRK Should Learn 'Lesson' From 'Failure'

SK1204000696 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1155 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Failed Provocation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North's provocation to dismantle armistice structure on Korean Peninsula has failed. Despite of its high-pitched war cry and military demonstrations, our people did not move a muscle. There was no panicked buying up as was seen in the nuclear crisis two years ago.

North's apparent attempt to scare us into confusion before the general election only backfired. During the campaign, not a single candidate could come out with the idea of providing additional rice or helping North.

International opinion became also very much critical almost unanimously to the North's military maneuvering. America and Japan, which had been in the preliminary process of normalizing relations with North Korea, are now reexamining their policies in the wake of current crisis. Even sympathetic China and Russia in the security issue condemned the North's brinkmanship was wrong. As the United Nations' Security Council is to take up the issue, North Korea is getting more and more isolated from the rest of the world.

North's military provocation unintentionally revealed their internal discord among the power groups. Chon Kum-chol asked us to re-open rice talks in a awkward way while its military was brandishing muscle in Panmunjom. Our businessmen were busy in dealing with their counterparts for joint projects in North Korea while their ambassador to Russia and the chairman of Supreme Peoples Council blared inevitability of another Korean War.

North is likely to attempt an uncontrolled provocation again to recover the failure. There is some possibilities military may try to consolidate its power base. It will surely intensify their contradictions they are facing.

We hope North to learn a lesson from its failure. That is to recognize the only way to survive is to come to the table for talks and the other option is a way to collapse.

ROK Editorial: Seoul Must Be More Assertive With U.S.

SK1204150196 Seoul THE KOREA ECONOMIC WEEKLY in English 15 Apr 96 p 10

[Editorial: "U.S. Trade Offensive"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With the latest edition of the U.S. Administration's review of foreign trade barriers out, Korean trade officials appear to feel relieved at least for now that the brunt of American trade offensive will not be directed at Korea. Not surprisingly, Japan and China that led the list of countries with which the U.S. is running trade deficit drew special attention in the U.S. Trade Representative's annual report. With Korea, it didn't bring up anything especially new, largely reciting the existing bilateral issues. Yet it should be abundantly clear that in this politically sensitive election year the Clinton Administration is highly likely to go to great lengths to show the voters that it is protecting American workers against foreign competition. What that spells for us are some tough negotiations with our biggest trade partner.

Recently, our trade relationship with this traditional partner has not been very satisfactory. What is called for is a reappraisal of that relationship to work out a new strategy to better serve our interest in the changed situation.

First of all, it must be clear that trade negotiation is a matter of give-and-take. What that means is that we have to be prepared to give as much in return as we take. Some criticism against our negotiators has been that they have been all too ready to give in under threat of retaliation.

Ranking 12th in the world in trade volume, it's high time for the country to have developed negotiating skills that are in keeping with its economic clout. Last year, our trade deficit topped $10 billion and as much as $6.3 billion of that imbalance was due to our excessive purchases from the U.S. This dispiriting fact should be a single most important factor to be reckoned with in our bilateral negotiations.

Secondly, now that the World Trade Organization is in place multilateral, rather than bilateral, negotiations should have far more relevance. It is unfortunate that the country that has championed the global organization is more often than not tempted to resort to bilateral solutions. It should be just right for us under the circumstances to be prepared to take the matter to the world organization whenever what Americans demand is deemed excessive.

Thirdly, The government's policies for industry and trade ought to be more closely interrelated. This need is especially acute with regard to autos, telecommunications and finance in which the U.S. is greatly interested. Since it is no longer pertinent in a global economy to try to put off market liberalization, these policies will do well to focus on boosting domestic industry's competitiveness.

Regardless of the trade friction with the U.S., in order to live with what is required under the WTO system, we have no choice but to readjust our market conditions in line with international standards.

ROK: High-Level Defector Comments on DPRK Military

962C0028A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Feb 96

[Report in five installments by CHOSON ILBO deputy chief editor To Chun-ho: "The North Korean Military

Today" — testimony by highest-level military defector Choe Chu-hwal]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[5 Feb p 1, 2]

Choe Chu-hwal, 47, former colonel of the North Korean People's Army [KPA] (a rank between colonel and lieutenant colonel in our military system), who defected to the South on 25 September 1995, is the highest-ranking of all military defectors to date. An elite career officer, he spent 19 years of his 27-year service exclusively in the Ministry of People's Armed Forces [MPAF] — as a guiding officer in a MPAF foreign affairs department, and a senior guiding officer, then deputy director in the MPAF External Operations Bureau, and lastly as director of the Yungsong Trade Joint Venture Department of the General Logistics Bureau. In North Korea, Kim Chong-il has mounted a full-scale campaign to win the hearts of the military since the death of Kim Il-song. He is visiting military units more diligently than he does any other agencies, and trying every possible means to increase their loyalty to him. The following is the first in a series of "The North Korean Military Today" based on an interview with Col Choe Chu-hwal. (Editor)

Lunch as Usual After the Death Announcement

It was 9 July 1994, the day Kim Il-song' death was announced. There was an advance notice at 10 a.m. that there would be a "special broadcast," so I and officers under me were sitting before the television, although it was lunch time. The place was the office of the Fourth Department of the External Affairs Bureau, of which I was deputy department director. The room was next to the bureau director's office on the second floor of No. 4 MPAF Building in Sosong District, Pyongyang. The Fourth Department handles foreign policy affairs of the military. At 1200 hours sharp, the announcer, sobbing, read the news that Kim Il-song had died. The moment I heard it, I felt a lump in my throat, and tears in my eyes. Until then, I had assumed that the special broadcast could be something about a North-South summit meeting that had been under negotiation for some time. Other subordinate officers were also seen blubbering, some loudly.

That atmosphere was but short-lived, though. Officers in another side room began talking loudly. They put out lunch boxes on their desks and began eating. They were officers of the Second Department, who serve as receptionists for foreign military delegations, and of the Fifth Department in charge of trade companies. Seeing them eating, officers in our room also pulled their desks together and laid out a bunch of lunch boxes on them. "Are you out of your mind?" I shouted to stop them.

Rising Black Tie Prices Give Rise to Profiteering

I was sitting in my chair without a lunch when Senior Col Kim Yong-ho, party secretary of the External Affairs Bureau, came in.

He said that he had to go out to make a condolence call for a guidance officer in the General Political Bureau [GPB], a superior office, who had died early in the morning that day, and that he would meet with the bureau director. "This man must be out of his mind too," I thought. "Comrade Party Secretary," I said to him, "do you know what you are saying at a time like this? If the higher-ups come to know about it, what would they say?" He blushed and left the room.

Such scenes in the MPAF offices, the key office of North Korean power, bear vivid testimony to the other side of the reported "infinite mourning" in North Korea following the death of Kim Il-song. On the next day, Maj Gen Yi Sang-u, director of the External Operations Bureau, assembled all bureau personnel to deliver a "written order." But he began crying abruptly before he even got to reading it. Officers present were showing no reverential attitude, however, and some even whispered that it could be a gesture.

The lunch box incident became an internal issue a few days later. Responsible officers of the departments involved were summoned by their superiors for a harsh reprimand. They were questioned "how could you dare act like that when the great leader has passed away?" The problem did not spread further, though, perhaps because the high-ranking cadres feared that it would be bad for themselves if the higher-ups knew about it. It was more or less the same with field units.

In a certain unit, a problem arose when officers were caught playing cards right after the announcement of Kim Il-song's death, while in another unit cadres were even caught drinking and subject to a disciplinary action.

The director of the MPAF Transportation Bureau failed to comply with a party directive to replace the hearse tires with new ones for the funeral, which was held on 19 July 1994, because he somehow thought it was not a big thing. As a result, he had to hang up his uniform late that year.

The mood among some mid-level cadres in the civilian society was not that of heartfelt condolences either. The deputy director of the Great Study Hall of the People was "dismissed" for wearing sneakers when he went to Mansudae to pay homage at the Kim Il-song statue. The director of the Pyongyang mass game research institute, who saw people wailing before the statue and told himself "could they really be that sad?," was expelled to Yongchon, his birthplace in North Pyongan Province.

The manager of Koryo Hotel saw the sales of black ties sold at a store inside the hotel rapidly increasing after the death of Kim Il-song, and raised the prices out of greed for more money. He was demoted and reassigned to a job in the countryside.

It is felt that this sort of sentiment among mid-level cadres in both the military and civilian societies has something to do with the recent trend of increasing defections of mid-level cadres from North Korea. The loyalty of mid-level cadres in the military to Kim Il-song or Kim Chong-il cannot be termed absolute. It is something forced on them under the watchful eyes of the State Security Department, or the Political Bureau of the military. Still worse, a considerably large number of people feel that they would not care even if the North Korean regime should collapse. It is different, however, with high-ranking cadres, including corps commanders, corps-level political commissars, and above, who enjoy good treatment. They view themselves as sharing the same destiny with Kim Chong-il.

Those who were truly sad at Kim Il-song's death were farmers, workers, and soldiers. In some cases of workers living in Pyongyang, family members took turns and went to Mansudae to keep a vigil before the statue. It was the same with farmers who came all the way from the countryside. In some regions, people fainted during the mourning, it was said. Regarding soldiers, I heard that some of them were so sad that they even attempted to commit hara-kiri.

[6 Feb p 1, 2]

High-Class Benz for Corps Commanders

The "wheedling of the North Korean military hearts" by Kim Chong-il is being done in many ways. While it covers the military in general, the focus is on officers, particularly the high-ranking general officers.

In March 1995, gorgeous villa-type houses were built adjacent to the MPAF Munsuri Reception Center in Taedonggang District and given to Marshal Choe Kwang, chief of the General Staff; Gen Kim Myong-kuk, director of the Operations Bureau; Gen Won Ung-hui, director of the Defense Bureau, and to Colonel Gen Kim Tae-sik, director of the Reconnaissance Bureau. After they moved in, Kim Chong-il personally visited Kim Myong-kuk in his new house to encourage him. I heard this from Kim Myong-kuk's daughter, Kim Hyong-ok, who lived in the same apartment building in Pyongyang where I lived.

Kim Chong-il's solicitude is remarkable indeed, not only for those core staff members, but also for corps and division commander-level general officers and higher. Official cars for corps commanders were replaced with the Benz 230 model in late 1994 and early 1995.

Foreign Liquors as Holiday Gifts

He also allowed corps commanders and higher-ranking officers to use "mercury-superimposed glass" (tinted glass) on their official cars to enhance their status. Until then, it had been allowed only on cars for the directors of the Operations Bureau and the Defense Bureau.

Corps commanders and higher-ranking officers are also frequently invited to parties. On the KPA anniversary and other special occasions, Kim Chong-il invites them to Songjuk Hall—which is No. 2 Pavilion of the Munsuri Reception Center, serving as a banquet hall exclusively for Kim Chong-il's use to entertain general officers. There they party all night long. He used to go hunting and fishing with them in the past; as his schedule got busier, he switched to holding parties for them. He drinks with them till late at night, deepening his rapport with them and testing their loyalty. Kim Chong-il has another similar banquet hall exclusively for his use on the Kalma peninsula near Wonsan. It is even more complete with facilities than the Munsuri hall, including an aquarium in the basement. In October 1994, he presented a small, silver-white pistol to each corps commander and corps political commissar. The pistol had the name of Kim Il-song carved in the grip. It was "presented" in the name of the late leader. Also, he built a modern shooting gallery in front of MPAF No. 2 Building for them. In a speech at a ceremony marking its completion, Kim Chong-il reportedly encouraged them by saying that "general officers should be crack shots themselves first so that all under them become crack shots too."

General officers of division commander or division political commissar-level and above receive special gifts from Kim Chong-il on special occasions, including 1 January (New Year's Day), 16 February (Kim Chong-il's birthday), 15 April (Kim Il-song's birthday), and 25 April (the KPA founding anniversary). Each gets two middle-size trunks or paper boxes containing industrial goods and foodstuffs. The industrial goods include suit materials imported from Japan, undershirts, socks, etc., while the foodstuffs include two bottles of imported liquors, and canned beef made in North Korea.

The food gifts sometimes include pheasant or duck meat, or occasionally deer meat. On the civilian side, such gifts are given only to vice ministers of the State Administration Council, responsible secretaries of the party provincial committees, chairmen of the provincial administrative economic committees, directors of the provincial defense bureaus and public security bureaus. On the Kim Il-song birthday anniversary on 15 April 1993, the brass were granted a novel, special privilege—a "letter of credence" awarded in the name of the party Central Committee. Carriers of the letter—which, on the civilian side, is awarded to vice ministers of the State Administration Council and above—have free access to any region or any agency. For people in a free democratic country like South Korea, it would be no big deal; in North Korea, however, it is a special privilege. Without it, even the brass are subjected to complicated red tape if they wished to travel to another region or visit another government agency. On that day, several hundreds received the letter of credence, including bureau directors of the MPAF, deputy chiefs of the General Staff, vice ministers, corps commanders, and directors of the training centers.

Kim Chong-il would not reject any papers submitted to him by military authorities for his approval. He just signs them. It is in part for showing his solicitude for them, but another important factor is that papers submitted to him are only those already agreed on by the four —the MPAF minister, the chief of the General Staff, the director of the GPB, and the director of the Operations Bureau.

Kim Chong-il gives all this special treatment to the brass because he believes that it is only the military that can safeguard the North Korean regime. He has been saying frequently that "with the party and the KPA, I will attain the reunification of the fatherland and the chuche revolution," and that "the political power is gained by the gun and maintained by the gun."

Perhaps more significant is his comment that "loyalists grow among cadres while traitors also come from among cadres." Kim Chong-il is aware that what he needs most to stay in power is the cooperation of the military. At the same time, he knows that the miliary is the biggest potential threat to him.

[7 Feb p 1, 2]

More Division Commanders Now in Their Early 40's

North Korea has carried out bold military reforms since Kim Chong-il was installed as the supreme commander on 24 December 1991. A variety of institutional devices were created and put in place and measures taken to raise the morale. Most notable is the cutback on political officers' interferences with unit commanders to establish the channel of command for unit commanders. In 1993, in response to complaints of field commanders about "party cells wielding too much power," Kim Chong-il separated the cadres section from the GPB—a party organization in the military—and made it an independent bureau, the KPA Cadre Bureau. This opened the way for field commanders to make personnel changes involving cadres as they wish; it became no longer necessary for them to curry favor with political officers or seek their help. In the past, a cadre-filed recommendation paper was "signed" by the political commissar or the political section chief; however, under the new system the commanding officer signs first and political cadres just countersign.

Kim Chong-il also took steps to guarantee speedy promotions based on assignments, ignoring the established terms of promotion. Although the regular minimum waiting period for promotion from second lieutenant to first lieutenant was two years, from first lieutenant to senior lieutenant three years, and from senior lieutenant to captain three years, he ignored them. For example, in the case of a major assigned to a post regularly served by a lieutenant colonel, he will get his promotion to lieutenant colonel unconditionally after six months in the post, although in the past he had to wait until he served out the regular waiting period. In some cases, even double-rank promotions were awarded in the six-month period. As a result, the average age of commanding officers is lower now in many units. Regiment commanders of age 37 or 38 and division commanders in their early forties are increasing in number.

Another morale-boosting measure taken was the reinstatement of the system awarding decorations and medals for the length of service, which had been abolished in the mid-1970's. In the past, those having served 10 years were awarded the Meritorious War Service Medal unless they had committed some serious errors, and those who had served 15 years the Order of National Flag Third Class, and 20 years the Order of National Flag Second Class. It was abolished because of the criticism that the system was too formalistic. But Kim Chong-il has reinstated it. As a result, a majority of officers and men were awarded more than two medals and decorations. I also received six medals and decorations altogether.

Job Rankings Readjusted Substantially Upward

In my case, along with the Meritorious War Service Medal, the Order of National Flag Third Class, and the Order of National Flag Second Class for my length of service, I was also awarded the Order of National Flag First Class, the Order of Labor, and the Order of Honorable Warrior for my "outstanding service record" and "ideological spirit." Officers of the External Operations Bureau to which I belonged received an average of three to four medals and decorations.

Since the Kim Il-song birthday of 15 April 1993, military job-rankings have been readjusted substantially upward.

Shortly after his installment as the supreme commander, Kim Chong-il awarded one-rank promotion to as many as 664 senior colonels and generals, giving them the first or an additional star. This time, he raised the job ranking for each post a rank higher.

Thus, the office of brigade commander, which had been a job for a senior colonel, was upgraded to a post for a major general; in case of corps commander, it was upgraded from colonel general to general. As for the departments under the Reconnaissance Bureau, each was lifted to an Office and a post for a major general.

Beginning in 1995, arrangements were made for military personnel to be given priority consideration for reassignment when there were openings in the T.O. of party or government functionaries, and for ex-military officers of age 34 or younger to be admitted to reeducation centers such as the high-level party school, the National Economy Institute, and the communist college in each province, and appointed as cadres upon graduation.

Kim Chong-il also arranged for those discharged after serving 25 years or longer to be able to receive the same living expenses (salaries) as they did while in the military service, even if they remain unemployed. In the past, they had received only 70 percent of their old military pay. In cases in which they find employment and the pay is less than what they had received in the military, they are entitled to receive their old military pay.

On the 25 April, 1992, "KPA 60th anniversary," every member of the security forces, the defense departments, the Ministry of Public Security, as well as the 1.1 million-strong regular army, received a mechanical-type wristwatch. The watches imported from China had the drawing of a red star on the face and "4-25" in red lettering under it. At the same time, there was a pay raise across the board. The raise was a "benevolent measure taken by the respected and beloved comrade leader" for the entire population, including military personnel.

The "flood of measures" had some side effects. There were cases of soldiers selling their KPA "60th birthday" wristwatches on the black market and this led to a crackdown. As those wristwatches bestowed on them by the "comrade supreme commander" showed up in the market in an increasing number of cases, patrols intensified and, in the daily evening roll call at each unit, soldiers were first ordered to raise their hands up to show if they still had theirs with them with them.

Nevertheless, as a result of such bold measures taken by Kim Chong-il, the morale of the military is relatively high.

[8 Feb p 1, 2]

In the North Korean military, ex-Air Force officers hold many key posts. Marshal Choe Kwang, MPAF minister, was Air Force commander for four years from October 1958 through September 1962, while Vice Marshal Cho Myong-nok, director of the GPB, also is an ex-Air Force commander. Gen Won Ung-hui, director of the Defense Bureau, had served as political commissar in the Air Force Headquarters for a long period of time, and Lt Gen Han Tong-kon, director of the Propaganda Department of the GPB is also an ex-Air Force officer. O Kuk-yol, who retired from the military and is currently director of the party Operations Department, became Air Force commander when he was 39 years old and served consecutive terms.

Kim Chong-il's Proteges Demoted Once

Kim Chong-il has promoted ex-Air Force officers to key posts on the grounds that modern warfare is high-tech war. The appointment of Vice Marshal Kim Yong-chun as chief of the General Staff, along with other promotions in October 1955 including Choe Kwang to the rank of marshal, means that Kim Chong-il now has the military well in hand. In other words, it means that Yi Pong-won, deputy director of the Organization Department of the GPB, who could not get on well with Kim Chong-il, has stepped down, along with his faction.

The feud between O Kuk-yol, who was close to Kim Chong-il, and Yi Pong-won began in 1986 when O Chin-u, then MPAF minister and director of the GPB, was injured in a traffic accident. (O Chin-u died in February 1995.) Kim Chong-il, thinking that there was no chance of O Chin-u's recovering his health, gave full authority to O Kuk-yol. O Kuk-yol then attempted to reorganize part of the GPB structure, which was a subject of complaints from commanding officers. His attempt was secretly reported by Yi Pong-won to O Chin-u, who in turn reported it to Kim Il-song.

In February 1988, Kim Il-song replaced O Kuk-yol, a protege of Kim Chong-il, as chief of the General Staff, demoting him and those close to him. Kim Yong-chun, a lieutenant general at the time, was demoted to the rank of senior colonel and reassigned to a brigade as a senior staff member. Pak Chung-kuk, then deputy bureau director for external operations, retired from the military; he had since not been seen with Kim Il-song any longer, not even once till the latter died. Chang Song-u and O Kuk-yol were sent to revolutionization training for six months in the high-level party school, while Chon Yong-su, director of the Political Department at the time and elder brother of Chon Chin-su, the present commander of 5th Corps, was demoted to a guidance officer at the MPAF history hall. However, those proteges of Kim Chong-il made a comeback.

Kim Yong-chun became chief of the General Staff after serving as director of the General Munitions Mobilization Bureau—which is directly under the party Central Committee—and as commander of 6th Corps; Chang Song-u is commander of 3d Corps, and Pak Chung-kuk a candidate member of the party Central Committee. After O Kuk-yol stepped down as chief of the General Staff, Yi Pong-won began wielding his power more visibly.

General Disciplined for Walking With Toes Turned Out

In October 1994, Yi Pong-won reported to Kim Chong-il that Kim Myong-kuk, director of the Operations Bureau, who is Kim Chong-il's favorite, gave his daughter a military apartment, and that he was committing other irregularities, too. Kim Chong-il, however, secretly called the Military Committee of the party Central Committee into session and accused Yi Pong-won of having reported a bunch of worthless materials to him. "Kim Myong-kuk is my man," he reportedly told the session, showing his confidence in him. Yi Pong-won fainted right there, and he was under medical treatment for a month after that.

Yi Pong-won has made no public appearance since October 1995, while those close to him seem to have been ousted, too. While the fall of Yi Pong-won is in part attributable to his close relationship with O Chin-u, it was also caused by his rigid personality which lacked flexibility.

Whenever a foreign military delegation visited North Korea, he used to make preparations way in advance for all small details of his speech and conduct for the entire period of the visit, from the time of the delegation's arrival at Sunan Airport to its departure. Therefore, each time a delegation came and Yi Pong-won headed the reception committee, cadres of the External Operations Bureau to which I belonged were, for days prior to the arrival, busy till late at night preparing for what he was to say and how he was expected to act. And now, Kim Chong-il made clear who was the boss between him and O Chin-u, although the latter was positively cooperative and helpful in his seizing control of the military. At a 1993 meeting of responsible functionaries of the MPAF, Kim Chong-il stated that "Comrade O Chin-u is a marshal of the KPA," driving it home to them that there is a distinction between him, the marshal of the DPRK, and O. From then on, all documents showed O Chin-u's title as marshal of the KPA.

Among KPA general officers, some are bright and capable while some others are incompetent and have problems in their private lives. Cho Myong-nok is clean in his private life, including matters concerning money and women; he is a man of such stern integrity that he would, for instance, not accept a new issue of a uniform if the one he had was still usable. O chin-u's style was to endure all hardships for himself and not to turn to Kim Il-song for help. MPAF Vice Minister Kim Kwang-chin is capable but selfish, as evidenced by the fact that he gave a military officer house to a married daughter. O Kuk-yol is a man of insight and very popular among subordinates. Speaking of Kim Myong-kuk's style, he is good at wheedling people. Gen Yi Pyong-uk, MPAF vice minister, is an ignorant person.

Yi Pyong-uk once led a friendship delegation to China. At the end of the visit, he made a farewell speech to Chinese officials who came to Beijing Railway Station to see them off. In that speech, he erroneously used an honorific to the embarrassment of his entourage. Also, when he accompanied an African delegation to a meeting with Kim Il-song, he was caught walking with his toes turned outward and, as a result, barred from activities involving foreign relations.

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Capricious Policy Decisions

In 1993, Kim Chong-il issued instructions that officers discharged while in service in the MPAF be reassigned out of Pyongyang and to their native places. The purpose was to readjust Pyongyang's population and, at the same time, resolve rural manpower shortages. The supervisory responsibility for the implementation of this measure was placed on the Ministry of Public Security.

In April 1994, after the measure was announced, it so happened that some 200 officers were discharged at the same time in the MPAF. While attending a joint discharge ceremony in the MPAF hall, they made a strong protest against the measure to Kim Ki-son, director of the Cadre Bureau.

The service in the military has been hard enough, they said, and being reassigned to provinces is just too much to take. Meanwhile, their colleagues earlier sent to provinces continued to appeal to the central party offices for reassignment back to Pyongyang. Based on these developments, military authorities submitted a report to Kim Chong-il advising him that if discharged officers with war experience were kept in Pyongyang, it would be beneficial in the event of an emergency.

It was only a pretext. They were in fact trying to mitigate complaints of discharged officers. In October 1993, six months after receiving the report, Kim Chong-il reinstructed that the discharged officers in question be reassigned to jobs in Pyongyang. Thus, for a while after his installment as the supreme commander, his instructions and approvals were frequently altered a few months later.

The External Operations Bureau, where I worked, once planned to have decorations awarded to the Chinese military delegation attending the "KPA 60th anniversary" on 25 April 1992. The plan was approved by Kim Chong-il in late 1991, but the approval was cancelled abruptly in January 1992. Later, a review of events leading up to the cancellation indicated that the General Political Bureau, in its analysis of the plan, presented the view that "if the decorations should be awarded to the Chinese delegation only, it could, in effect, cast too much light on China's role in the Korean war."

Another change of policy took place when the opportunity was getting ripe for development of Mt. Kumgang tourism after Chong Chu-yong, chairman of the Hyundai Group, visited North Korea in 1989.

Kim Chong-il instructed that wire entanglements set up along the shoreline in the Mt. Kumgang area be removed, and that the Kalma military airfield in Wonsan (for MIG-17's) be converted to a civilian airport. The project was pushed for a month as instructed but then dropped because of recommendations from the miliary.

Such capriciousness involving policy decisions has been corrected markedly now. Whenever there are problems, Kim Chong-il now carefully listens to the views of staff officers, and he is more prudent before making decisions.

Kim Chong-il's greatest concern and top priority is preparedness for war. Even before taking over as the supreme commander, he had been urging flawless war preparedness in the politico-ideological and material areas. In a letter to functionaries attending a training session in 1988, he emphasized the importance of science and technology as he set forth four principles of training—chuche, science, ideology, and militancy.

Emergency Food under Dual Control

In 1990, Kim Chong-il also said that "modern war is a war of bullets and oil," urging a buildup of war material stockpiles. As a result, through 1992, the North Korean military had stored enough emergency food and oil to last approximately two to three years. After coming over to the South, I found that you only know about the military-use emergency rice. That is not correct.

There are two kinds of emergency rice—the one for the civilian population that is under control of the General Munitions Mobilization Bureau, and the other for military personnel controlled by the General Logistics Bureau. In North Korea, however acute food shortages might get, the emergency rice controlled by the General Logistics Bureau absolutely cannot be touched. What is left of it now is enough for about a year's use, I understand.

To raise soldiers' politico-ideological levels, the military is indoctrinating them to be "bullets and bombs for Kim Il-song-Kim Chong-il" and, at the same time, raising their hostility against the United States, Japan, and South Korea unceasingly, regardless of North Korea-U.S. talks. Also, they are working hard in a number of ways to prevent soldiers from being affected by antiwar sentiment.

The fact that the slogan "Let Us Wipe Out the U.S. Imperialist Aggressors, the Implacable Enemy of the DPRK" is inscribed in North Korean vessels, military films, publications, and official documents, is to that end.

Kim Chong-il is particularly concerned about soldiers, as he showed during his visit to the 214th unit (a unit under the antiaircraft artillery headquarters in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang) on 1 January 1995, and to a women's artillery unit under 9th Corps in early February the same year. When he visited the 214th unit, he learned that soap and foot wrappings (cloth for wrapping feet as a substitute for socks) were in short supplies, and took steps to correct the shortages. After the visit to the women's artillery unit, he sent sunscreen cream to the members.

Kim Chong-il had earlier paid attention mostly to officers. But since last year, he has visited military barracks at various units to listen to servicemen on whatever problems they have, and to take corrective measures. His intent in all this is to create the impression that if soldiers are having a hard time in their military life, it is not because of the leader but because of the intermediate cadres and commanding officers.

ROK Court Rules DPRK Defectors Considered 'Korean Nationals'

SK1204023996 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Seoul High Court ruled Wednesday [10 April] that North Korean defectors should be viewed as "Korean nationals," striking down a deportation order served against a man with North Korean citizenship who had entered the country via China.

"It was improper for the Seoul Immigration Office to attempt to deport the North Korean defector from the foreigner confinement facility. As Koreans from both the South and the North should be counted as Korean nationals unless they have acquired foreign citizenship," Judge Yi Kon-ung said in his ruling.

Kim Sang-tok, 47, who arrived here last July from China, had filed a complaint with the court against the Seoul Immigration Office.

The foreigner confinement facility was moving to deport the man, even though Kim had reported to the authorities and said he wanted to openings reserved for them.

Currently the special admission is, allowed only to children of diplomats, and those whose parents served in overseas business branches or were employed in international organizations.

ROK: DPRK Diplomats in Moscow Engaged in Fake Dollar Transaction

SK1204000796 (Internet) The Digital Choson Ilbo WWW in English 1307 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday it has obtained, and is confirming an information that North Korean diplomats in Moscow had involved in a faked U.S. dollar transaction. The official said the Ministry had learned that a consul of the North Korean Embassy was trying to change one million bogus U.S. dollars into Russian Rubles through Chinese Korean merchants staying in the area.

He said the Russian security authorities seems to have arrestees [as received] a Chinese Korean merchant in this connection. He is learned to be under investigation. The official added faked U.S. dollars printed in North Korea are being rapidly spreading into Russia and South East Asia.

ROK Daily Considers DPRK Provocations' Effect on Elections

SK1204021296 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea watchers here are wondering why the North chose to heighten tension on the inter-Korean border just a week before South Koreans went to the polls to elect members of the 15th National Assembly.

Surveys showed an increase in voter support for ruling party candidates after North Korea announced Thursday last week that it would discard its duties on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and sent armed troops into the truce village of Panmunjom for the following three successive days.

A South Korean newspaper cartoon portrayed North Korean leader Kim Chong-il telling his starving people that the South Korean government will soon send more rice to them in return for his help in mustering voter support.

But most analysts here agree North Korea had no intention of strengthening the position of the New Korea Party, led by President Kim Yong-sam, when it sent armed troops into the DMZ.

Some analysts say North Korea attempted to deal a blow to President Kim and his ruling party and that its attempt backfired unlike in the past.

When North Korea detained a South Korean vessel delivering rice aid on spying charges last year, many voters turned their back on President Kim's party in local elections.

One of the most persuasive explanations, however, is that North Korea may not have considered what impact its provocative actions would have when it decided to heighten tension on the buffer zone separating the two Koreas.

By taking action in the DMZ, North Korea wanted to gain an upper hand in the coming talks with Washington on its missile exports and other issues, analysts say.

North Korea may have judged it would be more effective to take action right before U.S. President Bill Clinton visits South Korea for talks with President Kim, scheduled for next Tuesday.

Officials at the Unification Ministry see that the recent North Korean moves have been engineered by military leaders, not by the North Korean Workers' Party experts on South Korean affairs.

The officials say the North Korean Ministry of People's Armed Forces may be pushing to intensify tension on the Korean Peninsula as a way of maintaining internal order and establishing a direct military dialogue channel with Washington.

North Korean party veterans on South Korean affairs, they say, seem to have been excluded from making decisions on recent moves aimed at scrapping the armistice agreement.

Had they been involved, the officials said, they would have never channel such timing for the action.

Probably bewildered by the unintended impact of its action on the South Korean elections, they say, North Korea may have ceased its military incursions into the DMZ.

ROK Daily on Results of Chang Scandal, DPRK Moves on Elections

SK1204023296 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 12 Apr 96 p W1

[Report by staff reporter Han Tong-su: "Polls Swayed by Chang Scandal, DMZ Crisis"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] During the April 11 general election campaign period, political parties alternately swung between heaven and hell because of a series of events that have affected the each party negatively or positively.

The ruling New Korea Party [NKP] was devastated when the main opposition National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] disclosed the massive ill-gotten fortune of Chang Hak-no, a Chongwadae [presidential offices] secretary in charge of presidential household affairs, in the initial stage of the campaign period.

A considerable portion of the support for the NKP, which had been boosted by the recruitment of former prime minister Yi Hoe-chang and Seoul mayoral candidate Pak Chan-chong, was lost almost overnight.

The Chang Hak-no scandal was the most effective weapon for opposition candidates in their stumping rallies, and the ruling party was helpless in the face of their scathing attacks about the overall integrity of the Kim administration.

The NKP candidates who were in close competition with opposition party candidates across the nation, were immediate victims of the fallout from the bribery scandal.

Hardest hit were political newcomers in Seoul and its vicinity, which the NKP hailed as vanguards of new and clean politics.

The support for NKP candidates in Inchon and Kyonggi areas, a stronghold of the ruling camp, also shrank rapidly as experts pessimistically forecast that the NKP would end up as runner-up to Kim Tae-chung's NCNP in the general elections.

While the NCNP and Kim Chong-pil's splinter United Liberal Democrats [ULD], which also benefited from the Chang scandal, smirked at the prospect of dominating the National Assembly, the NKP launched a counteroffensive by attacking the opposition parties' age-old practice of taking money from candidates in exchange for nominations.

Coincidentally, state prosecutors began investigating Rep. Pak Tae-yong of the NCNP and Kuk Chang-kon, a nominee for the Tamyang-Changsong electoral district, on charges of giving billions of won to the NCNP leadership in attempts to win nominations.

The ULD was also embroiled in internal bickering over the nomination of proportional representative candidates, most of whom were billionaires believed to have bought the nominations. Prosecutors were quick to launch a probe into the nomination-buying scandal.

ULD leader Kim Chong-pil was also attacked by the minor opposition Democratic Party, which accused him of taking 66 million dollars in political funds from Japanese corporations in the 1960s when he headed the then ruling Democratic Republican Party. He was also cornered by his alleged "unpatriotic" proposal to dynamite Tokto Island in the East Sea [Sea of Japan], the source of a perennial diplomatic row with Japan which claims it as their territory.

The scandalous allegations, however, did not cause a remarkable loss in support for the NCNP and ULD while the NKP is still reeling from the devastating effect of the Chang fiasco.

Unexpectedly a savior came from the North. In the last phase of the uphill battle, North Korea declared they would not abide by the Korea Armistice Agreement and sent a band of heavily armed troops to the Joint Security Areas in the truce village of Panmunjom for three consecutive days.

Alarmed by the North Korean maneuver, a considerable number of disenchanted voters and former supporters swung back to the NKP. The incident additionally prodded many undecided voters to support ruling party candidates.

The opposition's warning that the government was taking advantage of the DMZ crisis was insufficient to halt the voter swing.

Ironically, North Korea again proved itself a rescuer of South Korea's ruling party, its sworn enemy, at times of political quandary in the South. Just before the 1987 presidential election, Pyongyang inadvertently helped ruling party candidate No Tae-u become elected president by blowing up a Korean passenger airliner over a Burmese sea.

Meantime, the just-concluded elections were marred with disparaging accusations by rival candidates. What made matters worse was that election management committees of political parties joined in the "war of exposures" that were provoked by individual candidates.

Such revelations were exchanged in areas where the race was close and, were aimed at destroying the reputations of rival parties or their candidates. It is, therefore, feared that a spate of libel suits will follow the election.

But others discount the likelihood, arguing that exposures are for the sake of exposures.

As in the past, candidates made big promises beyond their reach. But voters did not place much trust in their words. Still, a lot of promises flew in all directions. It was like a drowning man trying to grab a straw.

The Central Election Management Committee fielded a lot of people in order to gather evidence of violations of the election law for legal action after the elections were over. But, it is yet to be seen if the election watchdog will take any concrete steps against law violators after the election.

ROK Daily Views Possibility of NKP Alliance With Opposition

SK1204021396 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by staff reporter Chon Si-yong]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) is expected to seek alliance with opposition or independent lawmakers in order to maintain its majority in the National Assembly, analysts said yesterday.

Such a scenario became plausible as the ruling party, although it lost its majority in the national legislature, managed to become the largest party and independent candidates made a strong showing in the general elections.

Analysts said that the NKP's face-saving performance benefited much from its call for stability.

Many analysts agreed that the recent heightening of tensions on the inter-Korean border greatly boosted the chances of NKP candidates in averting a humiliating defeat they suffered in the local elections held in June last year. Recent opinion polls back up this analysis as they showed that NKP candidates, whose approval ratings suffered a setback due to a bribery scandal involving President Kim's top personal aide, began rapidly rising since North Korea's armed demonstrations at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

The ruling party also benefited from President Kim's successful efforts to cut ties to past military-backed governments and recruit several popular figures, the analysts said.

Since the NKP's devastating defeat in last June's local elections, President Kim has spearheaded the ruling party's endeavors to revive its sliding political capital ahead of the parliamentary elections.

Kim changed the name of the ruling party in a symbolic bid to cut ties to the disgraced former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, both now in jail on bribery and treason charges. The NKP, formerly Democratic Liberal Party, is the product of a 1990 three-party merger in which President Kim and Kim Chong-pil, then opposition leaders, joined forces with No's ruling party. The President himself took the lead in the NKP's largely successful efforts to recruit political heavyweights, former dissidents and reform-minded figures with a view to lining up votes.

They included popular ex-Premier Yi Hoe-chang, another Former Prime Minister Yi Hong-ku and Pak Chan-chong, a former national legislator. Yi Hoe-chang headed the NKP's national campaign team and Pak led the campaign activities for candidates running in the Seoul metropolitan area which embraces Kyonggi Province and Inchon.

Analysts said that the recruiting of these three highly popular figures was a major factor in the NKP's unexpectedly strong showing in Seoul and its vicinities, where regional allegiances exercise little influence.

The analysts said that both the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) and the United Liberal Democrats (ULD) seem to have failed to take full advantage of the Chang Hak-no bribery scandal and allegations that President Kim received part of the slush funds raised by No, his predecessor, to bankroll his 1992 presidential campaign.

The accusations that both the NCNP and the ULD sold their nominations, which are now under investigation by the prosecution, also blunted the edge of the opposition's offensive against the ruling party's financial scandals.

Analysts said that the NKP's election performances are not expected to cause considerable damage to the leadership of President Kim because the ruling party is expected to see little difficulty in forming a majority through a political realignment.

Kim is expected to be able to carry on with his reform programs and strengthen his call for a generational change of Politicians, a slogan apparently aimed at his chief rivals—NCNP's Kim Tae-chung and ULD's Kim Chong-pil.

In fact, the relatively poor opposition performances are expected to give the two Kims, both potential presidential hopefuls, a hard time in sustaining their chances in the late 1997 presidential elections.

Both the opposition parties fared well only in their respective regional strongholds, handing over to the NKP a large number of seats in "neutral regions" such as the Seoul metropolitan area and Kangwon Province.

Although a few "cracks" emerged deep-rooted regionalism again turned out to be the most decisive factor in voters' decisions.

The failure of the minor opposition Democratic Party (DP) to earn 20 seats the minimum needed for a floor negotiating bloc, also attests to the dominance of the three Kims who depended on regional backing.

ROK: Apparent 'Inaccuracy' of Media Poll Projections Criticized

SK1104140796 Seoul YONHAP in English
1358 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 11 (YONHAP) — The most recent joint opinion poll conducted by the four broadcasting companies showed about a 20 percent margin of error at 9:00 p.m. Thursday, when 5 percent of total ballots were counted.

According to early election returns, candidates from the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) led in 111 district constituencies at 9:00 p.m. Thursday, compared to 155 predicted by the telephone poll conducted earlier by major broadcasters.

The poll, which was supposed to have a margin of error of plus or minus 4.3 percent, predicted that the NKP would win 155 of 253 total seats in district constituencies for a sweeping victory.

KBS, MBC, SBS and CBS were receiving a rush of telephone calls from TV and radio audiences, most of whom criticized the inaccuracy of the poll. Officials from the four media organizations were finding it difficult to explain the error.

The inaccuracy of this year's poll was a sharp contrast to the relatively accurate predictions of last year's MBC exit poll for the June 27 elections.

MBC also tried to conduct an exit poll this year, but abruptly decided not to Thursday morning after broadcasters said that it would have violated the current election law, which prohibits exit polls from being conducted within 500 meters from voting sites.

ROK: Voter Participation Lowest Ever at 63.9 Percent

SK1104162096 Seoul YONHAP in English
1523 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — Of the total 31,488,294 who were eligible to vote in South Korea's 15th general elections Thursday, only 20,118,528 or 63.9 percent went to the polls, the lowest-ever turnout in the nation's history.

According to final statistics released by the Central Election Management Commission (CEMC), voter participation in this year's election was down 8 percent from 71.9 percent in the 14th general elections in 1992, and down 4.5 percent from 68.4 percent in the local autonomous elections last year.

North Kyongsang Province registered the highest voter participation rate with 71.6 percent, while Inchon had the lowest with 60.1 percent.

Cheju recorded the second highest turnout rate with 71.1 percent, followed by South Cholla at 69.8 percent, Kangwon 69.2 percent, South Chungchong 68.7 percent, North Chungchong 68.3 percent, North Cholla 67.8 percent, South Kyongsang 66 percent, Kwangju 64.5 percent, Taejon 63 percent, Kyonggi 61.5 percent, Seoul 61.1 percent, Taegu 60.9 percent, and Pusan 60.5 percent.

CEMC officials said that this year's sluggish voter turnout can be attributed to unclear election issues, increased public indifference to politics and a declining interest in elections.

ROK: NKP Expected To Win 139 Seats, Slightly Less Than Majority

SK1104210396 Seoul YONHAP in English
1903 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) gained 39.1 percent of the popular vote as of 3 AM Friday [1800 GMT 11 April], recording strong showings in Seoul, Pusan, Kyonggi and Kyongsang Provinces with about 60 percent of total ballots counted, according to local television projections.

Interim results indicated that the NKP was expected to gain 139 seats, less than half of the total of 299.

Ruling party candidates were leading in 121 of 253 regional constituencies as of 3 AM, and if the NKP continued to maintain its share of 39.1 percent of popular votes, it would earn 18 more seats under the national representation system.

The major opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), meanwhile, was leading in 67 local constituencies and had 28.3 percent of the vote as of 3 AM, and was on track to secure a total of 80 regional constituency and national representation seats.

The NCNP had initially aimed to get a third of the total seats but interim results showed it was falling far short of its goal.

Adding further insult to injury, several of the NCNP's highest- ranking legislators lost their seats in Seoul, dealing a severe blow to the future of the nation's major opposition party.

The minor opposition party United Liberal Democrats (ULD) garnered nine percent of the vote and had 40 candidates leading in their districts as of 3 AM, mainly in Chongchong and North Kyongsang Provinces and Taegu. The party is expected to gain 49 seats including those under the proportional representation system.

Nine Democratic Party candidates were also leading in their respective constituencies.

Analysts believe that the recent intrusion of armed North Korean troops into the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas, apparently evoked conservative sentiments among voters to the benefit of the ruling party.

NKP officials and lawmakers also say that they were buoyed by the strong showings of their party particularly in Seoul and neighboring Kyonggi Province.

Both areas were originally considered by experts as the fiercest battleground among the parties in order to grasp the hegemony of the elections, although interim results showed that the ruling party would not achieve its goal of gaining a majority.

ROK: 216 Districts Confirmed; NKP Wins 109 Districts

*SK1104205296 Seoul YONHAP in English
1935 GMT 11 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — About 97.5 percent of the votes had been counted as of 4:15 AM Friday [1915 GMT 11 April], with official winners having been confirmed at 216 of the total 253 district constituencies nationwide.

The ruling New Korea Party won 107 of the 216 seats, followed by the main opposition National Congress for New Politics with 63, the conservative opposition United Liberal Democrats with 37, and the minor opposition Democratic Party with 9,

The remaining 37 seats had not yet been confirmed.

ROK: NKP Fails To Win Majority of Assembly Seats

*SK1104213896 Seoul YONHAP in English
2133 GMT 11 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) failed to win half of the parliamentary seats in Thursday's general elections, but found comfort in its unexpected strong showing in Seoul.

As of 5:00 AM Friday 2000 GMT 11 April], the NKP had won or was leading in 122 district constituencies while the main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) was expected to secure 66 seats.

The Democratic Party (DP), the third biggest party entering the elections, looked as if it would win only nine seats while the conservative opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) enjoyed an unexpected victory by leading in 40 district constituencies.

At stake in the elections were 299 seats, of which 253 were district constituencies seats elected by popular vote and the remaining 46 determined by the proportion of votes cast for each party under the national representation system.

The NKP, most likely to end up with 140 seats including 17 under the proportional representation system, is expected to try to woo independent winners into the party in an attempt for control of the National Assembly.

Despite being a little disappointed at the results, the NKP was encouraged by its victory in Seoul, being ahead in more than half of the districts in the capital for the first time ever.

Some political experts predict that the NKP may try to merge with the DP, which is expected to win 15 seats including six under the proportional representation system.

Both the NKP and the DP have called for an end to politics led by the three Kims' — Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil.

Pak Chang-chong, who ran for Seoul mayor last year and is the NKP's 21st candidate for a proportional representational seat, failed in his bid to win a seat in the 15th National Assembly.

The NCNP, which had targeted winning more than 90 seats, secured only 66 seats and 13 more under the national representation system, with its leader and 14th candidate for a NCNP proportional representation seat, Kim Tae-chung, losing his bid for a parliamentary seat.

The major opposition party was well on its way to landslide victories in almost all electoral districts of North and South Cholla Provinces and Kwangju, Kim's stronghold. But it struggled in Seoul and Kyonggi Province.

The party's most prominent incumbents, including Chong Tae-chol, Yi Chong-chan, Han Kwang-ok, Pak Sil, Kim Pyong-o and Chang Sok-hwa, were all losers in Seoul Thursday.

The conservative opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) posted strong showings in Taegu, where former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u hail from, and Taejon and South and North Chongchong Provinces, the hometown of party leader Kim Chong-pil.

The ULD, whose members include cronies of Chon and No, is most likely to win 40 National Assembly seats and 9 more under the proportional representation system. The party, the fourth biggest entering the elections, is now third.

It is pushing for constitutional revision to change the system of government from the current presidential system to the parliamentary cabinet system.

Meanwhile, the DP, almost sure to secure only 15 seats, is expected to try to woo independent lawmakers or push for a merger with other parties in an effort to form a floor negotiation group in the National Assembly.

Former DP leader Yi Ki-taek and prominent lawmaker Yi Chol both lost their reelection bids.

ROK: TV Reports Final Vote Tally Gives NKP 139 Seats

SK1104222896 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 2200 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The vote count for the general elections has been completed. The New Korea Party [NKP] won 139 seats, 121 seats from district constituencies and 18 seats from the national constituency; the National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] won 79 seats, 66 seats from district constituencies and 13 seats from the national constituency; the Democratic Party [DP] won 15 seats, nine seats from district constituencies and six seats from the national constituency; the United Liberal Democrats [ULD] won 50 seats, 41 seats from district constituencies and nine seats from the national constituency; and the independents won 16 seats from district constituencies.

ROK: NCNP Facing 'Grim Future' After 'Bloody Thursday' Defeat

SK1104212296 Seoul YONHAP in English 2057 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — The nation's major opposition party, the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), faced a grim future Friday as the party's key postholders, believed to be South Korea's next generation of political leaders, lost in Thursday's general elections.

The election's outcome proved to be "bloody Thursday" for the party, as the defeats of NCNP Vice President Yi Chong-chan and co- chairman of the NCNP's Election Campaign Committee Chong Tae-chol came amid the ruling New Korea Party's dominant showing in Seoul, originally thought to be the stronghold of the NCNP.

Meanwhile, NCNP Vice President Kim Sang-hyon, the party's No. 2 man, barely beat out a newcomer from the ruling party, and his unconvincing win is expected to hurt his bid to earn his party's presidential nomination next year.

The three NCNP leaders, each having served four terms, were commonly referred to as "post-DJ (referring to their party President Kim Tae-chung)." The opposition party had swept local elections on May 27 last year in Seoul.

The "cruel April" election also saw defeat for several other three-term and two-term NCNP lawmakers.

Chong and Yi were among the most popular "next-generation" presidential candidates in the opposition camp.

Yi had been elected to the National Assembly from Chongno-ku, widely considered as the most powerful district in South Korean politics, four consecutive times before losing to Yi Myong-pak Thursday.

Yi bolted from the now-defunct Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) when he lost his party's presidential nomination in 1992 to Kim Yong-sam, who was then DLP chairman.

Political experts predict that the "surprise" result of Thursday's National Assembly election will expedite a "generational change" echoed by President Kim Yong-sam and other reform-minded politicians.

They added that the election results would have a significant influence on the political future of Kim Tae-chung, whom many believe will make another run for the presidency.

ROK: Kim Tae-chung Fails To Win Proportional Representative Seat

SK1104214696 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 2100 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The result of the vote count from the general elections shows that the total number of seats, including proportional representative seats, won by each party are: the New Korea Party [NKP], 139 seats; the National Congress for New Politics [NCNP], 79 seats; the United Liberal Democrats [ULD], 48 seats; the Democratic Party [DP], 15 seats; and the independents 16 seats, these seats in district constituencies only.

Dividing the number of seats into district and proportional, the NKP won 121 district and 18 proportional seats, the NCNP won 66 district and 13 proportional seats, the DP won nine district and six proportional seats, and the ULD won 39 district and nine proportional seats.

As a result, Pak Chan-chong, chairman of the Metropolitan Area Committee, with a ranking of 21 on the NKP's proportional representative list; and Kim Tae-chung, president of the NCNP, with a ranking of 14 on that party's proportional representative list, failed to win proportional representative seats.

ROK: Ho Hwa-pyong Only Winner Among Indicted Candidates

SK1104205696 Seoul YONHAP in English 1823 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — Ho Hwa- pyong was the only winner among the three candidates in the elections who are in jail on charge of their role in the 1979 military coup and the 1980 brutal suppression of demonstrators in Kwangju.

Running as an independent, Hur defeated Yun Hae-yong of the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) in the Puk-ku District of Pohang, North Kyongsang Province.

Independent Chong Ho-yong was defeated by another independent, Paek Sung-hong, in the So-a Precinct of Taegu, while independent Ho Sam-su lost to the NKP's Chong Eui-hwa in the Chong-east District of Pusan.

Ho will continue to be held in jail until the final court verdicts on the two cases are handed down, although his tenure as a legislator officially starts May 30. In the event he is found guilty, there will be another election for the district seat within 90 days.

ROK Elections Characterized by 'Interesting' Results

SK1104211096 Seoul YONHAP in English 2034 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — Interesting and unusual results characterized the results of the 15th general elections Friday [day as received].

Pak Chun-kyu, who ran on the minor opposition United Liberal Democrats' ticket, was elected to a ninth term as legislator of the Chong-ku District, Taegu, a feat matched only by President Kim Yong- sam.

Pak resigned as National Assembly speaker in 1993 after he was discovered to have amassed wealth through "unethical means."

The youngest winner was 32-year old Kim Min-sok, who defeated entertainer-turned-politician Choe Yong-han in Yongdungpo-B District, Seoul. In the 14th general election four years ago, Kim, former president of Seoul National University's Student Council, lost by just 260 votes to Na Ung-pae, who is currently deputy prime minister and finance and economy minister.

On the women's side, Chu Mi-ae of the National Congress for New Politics (NCNP), running for the Kwangjin-B District of Seoul, and independent Yim Chin-chul in Kyongju-B, North Kyongsang Province emerged victorious.

Their victories marked the first election of a female in eight years, the last being Kim Chong-ye, who ran on the then-ruling Democratic Justice Party ticket in 1988.

Ho Hwa-pyong was the only winner among three candidates in the elections awaiting trial in jail for their roles in the 1979 military coup and the 1980 military crackdown on the Kwangju pro- democracy movement.

Most conspicuous in this year's election were victories won by former news anchormen, announcers and entertainers, giving birth to the proverb, "If you want to be a lawmaker, be a TV star first. That's the short-cut to the National Assembly."

Winners who were once former TV journalists included former Korea Broadcasting System anchor Pak Sung-pom, who ran on the New Korea Party ticket in Chong-ku District, Seoul, Maeng Hyong-kyu, ex- anchorman for Seoul Broadcasting System, in Seoul's Songpa-B District and ex-Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. anchor Chong Tong-yong, in Tokjin District, Chonju, North Cholla Province.

Other notable persons elected were one-time actor Chong Han-yong, ex-pop vocalist Choe Hui-chun and former TV emcee Pyon Ung-chon.

ROK: Kim Yong-sam Comments on Outcome of General Elections

SK1204015096 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0100 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Kim Yong-sam said today he considers the results of the 15th general elections the people's demand to do away with old politics and establish fresh, clean politics in accordance with the new age by continuing with reform amid stability and amid the rectification of history. President Kim presided over a meeting of senior presidential secretaries this morning, at which he said he was sincerely thankful for the people's trust in and expectations for the government and the ruling party.

President Kim said the election results reflect the people's evaluation and expectations for the government and the ruling party's efforts to prepare for the 21st century, and that the government and ruling party should interpret the results as the people's spur of encouragement, asking them to work harder and better, and to make up for any deficiencies. President Kim said that to fulfill the people's unchanging trust, the government will solidify the country's security and economy and concentrate on reforming the public welfare to elevate people's quality of life.

President Kim added that destructive regionalism, as shown in the election, has become the primary task to be solved by all of us, and stressed that election law violations law should be sternly punished according to the law in order to achieve advanced politics.

ROK Government Sees No Postelection 'Major' Economic Policy Changes

SK1204000596 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Korean government decided to maintain its focus on strengthening its economy through reforms in high-cost areas (labor costs, interest rates, logistics and real estate) while continuing with the current basic economic conditions for stable growth after the April 11 general elections.

A high-ranking Ministry official stated on the 11th that "major changes in economic policies will not be implemented after the elections and current policies will continue to be maintained. Reforms and the easing of regulations on the economy, currently experiencing a slowdown due to the slush fund scandal which occurred at the end of last year, will be pursued even more aggressively than ever."

ROK: DP Spokesman Comments on Results of General Elections

SK1204023596 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0110 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Hong-sin, the spokesman of the Election Campaign Headquarters of the Democratic Party [DP], stated that the party will sincerely accept the people's severe reproof expressed in the outcome of the current general elections.

Today, in a letter to the people, Spokesman Kim Hong-sin stated: I cannot help but repress frustration over the failure of our party's candidates, who are outstanding both in terms of morality and capacity, and extend thanks to those voters who supported the DP.

He stated the DP will make utmost efforts to rebuild a new opposition party which can enjoy the people's support in the future.

ROK: Rival Parties To Seek Alliances With Independents

SK1204025596 Seoul YONHAP in English 0228 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — With all parties unable to secure a stable majority in Thursday's general elections, a heated competition among rival parties to lure as many independent legislators into the fold as possible seems inevitable.

The ruling New Korea Party [NKP] is considered to have done well by winning 139 National Assembly seats, including 18 national representation seats, but fell short of capturing a majority.

President Kim Yong-sam and his ruling party will therefore be required to forge an alliance with independent legislators if it is to continue to be a dominant force in the legislature. They might even try to get some of them to join the ruling party if it becomes necessary.

The major opposition parties, the National Congress for New Politics and the Union of Liberal Democrats have also been put in a position where they have to woo the support of independents, if they want to influence 15th National Assembly legislation.

The ruling party is expected to begin courting the independent legislators very soon in an attempt to lure them into their fold.

Altogether, 16 independents have been elected to the National Assembly, including Kwon Chong-tal, Pak Si-kyon, Yim Chin-chol, Kim Yong-kap, Hong Sa-tok, Chong Mong-chun, Kim Il-yun, So Hun, and Yi Hae-pong.

Only two, Hong Sa-tok and So Hun, are considered diehard opposition politicians, while the rest are thought to be "soft" targets, based on past affiliations with ruling parties, including several who have recently left the NKP.

Each has a different story to tell when it comes to their past relationship with the ruling camp: Some quit because they were not nominated to run for the National Assembly, while others have been openly confrontational with the ruling party.

The ruling party might focus on forging a "coy" relationship with new independent legislators like Won Yu-chol, Pak Chong-u, Hwang Song-kyon, and Yim Chin-chol.

These legislators had to withdraw from the ruling party when their candidacies were not endorsed by NKP leadership, so that they could still run for office.

The ruling party might also try to recruit Kim Il-yun, former legislator in the 12th and 13th National Assemblies, and Kim Yong-chun, a former ruling party legislator in the 11th legislature.

Trying to rush these independent legislators into joining the party, however, won't be easy: The tough campaign might have left them with wounds that don't easily heal, and it will be difficult for them to ignore the voters who supported them during the election.

It will also be hard to sell the idea to new legislators like Kim Yong-kap, Ho Hwa-pyong, and Kwon Chong-tal, whose political allegiances go back to former Presidents Chon and No, and who have been openly critical of the current administration's policies.

Rep. Chong Mong-chun has drawn media attention in the past when he decided to join the ruling party, and is likely to do so again.

ROK: Kim Chong-pil Comments on Results of General Elections

SK1204020796 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0110 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kim Chong-pil, president of the opposition United Liberal Democrats, stated that he extends thanks to the people for bestowing 50 parliamentary seats upon the United Liberal Democrats [ULD] despite the difficult circumstances they faced in the general elections.

At a meeting with reporters this morning at ULD headquarters, ULD President Kim Chong-pil stated the ULD accepts with thanks the 50 parliamentary seats it won as the people's will, adding: If the general elections had been conducted fairly without government and monetary influence, the ULD could have won many more seats.

President Kim Chong-pil stated: The opposition parties have won a majority of parliamentary seats in the elections, even though the New Korea Party [NKP] insists it won a victory. Thus, the NKP should adopt the politics of dialogue as soon as possible.

President Kim also stated: The ULD will make every possible efforts to realize a parliamentary government system in the 15th National Assembly as promised, and will establish and embody parliamentary politics so that all political issues can be discussed and resolved at the National Assembly in the future.

ROK: NCNP Spokesman Comments on 'Poor Results' in Elections

SK1204034696 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Congress for New Politics [NCNP] is in a state of shock from its unexpectedly poor showing in the parliamentary elections, and is deliberating the party's future.

The party convened a general meeting of the Election Campaign Committee today, saying it would do its best to fulfill its responsibility as the largest opposition party.

In a statement, Kim Han-kil, a spokesman for the Election Campaign Committee, said: The NCNP yielded poor results in the elections because the party lacked sufficient capabilities and made insufficient efforts. A more important reason is that the government, which had a tendency to leave no stone unturned to secure victory, mobilized all the news media, police, and prosecution, and even its monetary power, to debilitate the opposition parties.

ROK: Political Observers Expect Political Realignment in NKP

SK1204072096 Seoul YONHAP in English 0651 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — Now that the results of Thursday's general elections clearly defied earlier predictions of a possible devastating defeat by the New Korea Party [NKP], political observers are busy trying to figure out how the factional party realignment will change in the crucial period leading up to next year's presidential election.

Major changes are inevitable in view of the impressive performance of the "Minju" faction led by President Kim Yong-sam's confidants, observers say.

In addition to the sweeping victory in Pusan (21 seats), all of Kim's key confidants who ran for office in Seoul, including Kim Tok- yong, So Chong-won, Paek Nam-chi, No Sung-u and Kim Chung-il, were elected. Another 16 candidates who can be classified as the "new Minju" or "pan-Minju" faction, including Pak Pom-chin, Maeng Hyong- kyu, Kim Hak-won, Yi Pom-sin and Yi Sin-haeng, also won.

The "new Minju" faction performed well in Kyonggi Province (Kim Kil-hwan, Son Hak-kyu, Hong Mun-chong, Yi Kuk-hon, Yi Sa-chol, Kim Mun-su), in Inchon (Yi Kyong-chae, Yi Won-pok, Yi Kang-hui, So Han- sem) and in Kangwon Province (Han Sung-su, Yi Yong-sam).

With other successful candidates including Hwang Nak-chu, Kang Sam-chae (South Kyongsang) and Hwang Pyong-tae and Kim Chan-u (North Kyongsang) combined, "Minju" has become the largest faction with approximately 70 active legislators.

The proportion of "Minju" lawmakers is even larger — roughly 70 percent of all NKP-affiliated lawmakers — if proportional representatives Kim Myong-yun, Kim Su-han and Kim Yong-son are included.

The membership of the relatively conservative "Minjong" faction, on the other hand, those who have once served former President Chon Tu-hwan or No Tae-u, has declined to 40.

In Seoul, key Minjong members, including Kim Yong-ku, Yi Se-ki, So Chong-hwa, Pak Chu-chon, Pak Myong-hwan, So Sang-mok, Kim Chung- wi, Choe Pyong-ryol and Kim Myong-sop, were elected.

Yi Han-tong, Yi Sung-ho, Yi Taek-suk, Kim In-yong, Nam Pyung-u, O Se-ung, Yi Ung-hui and Yi Hae-ku won in Kyonggi. In North Kyongsang, Kim Yun-whan, Pak Se-chik, Pak Hun-ki and Chang Yong-chol also retained their seats.

Other successful Minjong candidates include So Chong-hwa and Sim Chung-ku of Inchon, Kim Yong-chin, Pak U-pyong and Yi Ung-sun of Kangwon, Sin Kyong-sik and Kim Chong-ho of North Chongchong, Kim Chong-ha, Ha Sun-pong, Kim Yong-il, Pak Hui-tae, Kwon Ik-hyon, Yi Kang-tu and Na O-yong of South Kyongsang and Hyon Kyong-tae, Yang Chung-kyu and Pyon Chung-il of Cheju.

With the reformist Minju faction emerging as the largest group within the ruling party, its members are expected to regroup in support of Kim Tok-yong and Choe Hyong-u, both of whom are eyeing the possibility of running in next year's presidential election.

Kim was instrumental in helping Kim Mun-su make a successful debut, while Choe has been credited with assisting Kim Un-hwan and Chong I-hwa in Pusan.

O Chang-sop was unsuccessful in his bid for a seat representing yesan, South Chongchong Province, in spite of help from reform- minded campaign leader Yi Hoe-chang, who made a significant contribution to the party's impressive victory in Seoul. This should result in some political clout within the party.

Pak Chan-chong, the Seoul area campaign manager, was unable to help his former secretary, An Sang-su, win in an Inchon district, but his campaign contribution to the victory in the metropolitan area is expected to instrumental in enhancing his status in the party.

Kim Yun-whan and Yi Han-tong will undergo some change in their positions as sub-faction leaders in the Minjong faction.

Kim had four of his close associates, including Pak Se-chik, Yi Sang-tok, Pak Hun-ki and Chang Yung-chul, win, while suffering the defeats of five others in his power base of North Kyongsang.

Yi saw four of his close associates fail in his power base of Kyonggi, but had nine others, including Kim Yong-ku, Yi Sung-ho and Hyon Kyong-tae, win.

ROK: Results of Parliamentary Elections Analyzed

SK1204072796 Seoul YONHAP in English
0702 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — The ruling New Korea Party (NKP) fought a "good fight" in the general elections but fell short of securing a majority in the National Assembly by winning only 139 of the 299 parliamentary seats.

It was the third consecutive parliamentary election in which a ruling party failed to get more seats than the combination of opposition parties and independents.

The main opposition National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) suffered a major setback in the sense that the 79 seats it won fell far short of its goal of 100 seats.

The conservative opposition United Liberal Democrats (ULD) has become the no. 3 party in terms of the number of National Assembly seats, while the minor opposition Democratic Party (DP) was soundly defeated by failing to win the 20 seats necessary to form a floor negotiation group. It won 15 seats while independents got 16.

The NKP's achievement is remarkable in that it won more than half, 27 of the 47 electoral districts in Seoul, for the first time in South Korean election history.

Regional rivalry again prevailed as it did before, a reality underscored by the resounding defeat of the Democratic Party which based its campaign on an end to the "three-Kim era."

The NKP managed to win in one district each in North Cholla and South Chungchong Provinces. It never had a chance in Kwangju, Taejon or South Cholla Province.

The NCNP did even worse. The major opposition party could not even win a single seat in Taegu and Taejon, Kangwon, North and South Chungchong Provinces, North and South Kyongsang and Cheju Provinces. It managed to maintain its status as the number 2 party on the basis of the seats it won in Seoul, Kyonggi Province and its traditional North and South Cholla strongholds.

ULD was also unable to overcome its regional limitations although it overwhelmingly won in Taejon and North and South Chungchong Provinces and did well in the Taegu area.

Pusan, Kwangju-South Cholla Province and Taejon, the respective home turfs of Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung and Kim Chong-pil, welcomed no strangers.

Independent candidates did quite well in North and South Kyongsang Provinces and Taegu. In South Kyongsang, the most successful candidates were those who bolted the ruling party after failing in nomination races. In North Kyongsang Province and Taegu, the so-called anti-Kim Yong-sam Taegu-Kyongsang sentiments appear to be responsible for the election results.

Regionalism also seems to be a prominent factor in the number of votes each party received.

NKP received 17.7 percent of the South Cholla Province vote, down from 25.2 percent in the previous 14th National Assembly election.

In South Chungchong Province, Kim Chong-pil's hometown, ULD received 51.2 percent of the votes cast, NKP 28.9 percent, DP 7.9 percent and NCNP 6.1 percent. In comparison, when Kim Chong-pil was the Democratic Liberal Party's number 2 man in the 14th parliamentary election, it won 43.3 percent of the vote, while DP got 20.2 percent and the now-defunct Nationalist Party 16 percent.

Kim Yong-sam: Polls Show Voter Support of Reform, Stability

SK1204081596 Seoul YONHAP in English
0717 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — President Kim Yong-sam said Friday that the result of Thursday's general election represents the people's hope for sustained reforms to establish a clean political tradition by righting historical wrongs and discarding "old political practices," while maintaining political stability.

The election results mirrored "voters' assessment and expecation that government and the ruling party strive to prepare the South Korea for the 21st century," Chongwadae [presidential offices] Spokesman Yun Yo-chun quoted the president as saying when Chief Presidential Secretary Kim Kwang-il briefed him on election results.

"Voters told us to do better at what we are already doing well and correct what we are not doing well," the concurrent head of the ruling New Korea Party (NKP), was further quoted as saying.

Kim expressed his gratitude to voters for the trust and expectations they have for the government and the NKP, and said the government should continue its efforts to strengthen the nation's defense posture, develop the economy and improve the quality of life for the people.

The government should humbly accept the message sent by voters and make sure that our policymaking reflects it so that all national energy and wisdom may converge to prepare the nation for sustained development in the coming century.

The regionalism revealed by the election is a pressing political issue which the nation must resolve if it is to become a politically advanced country, and every election irregularity that is found must be dealt with in accordance with the law, he stressed.

In a related development, President Kim sent a congratulatory cable Friday morning to each of the 253 successful ruling party, opposition and independent candidates who ran in the elections.

President Kim, as head of the NKP, is going to host a lunch at Chongwadae Saturday for NKP leaders, including campaign manager Yi Hoe-chang and Chairman Kim Yun-hwan, in appreciation of their campaign efforts.

ROK: Four Parties Comment on General Election Outcome

SK1204090696 Seoul YONHAP in English
0833 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — Commenting on the outcome of the 15th National Assembly elections on Friday, the ruling New Korea Party attached significance to what it called the emergence of new politics and freshman politicians.

The major opposition National Congress for New Politics on the other hand blamed the electronic media, the prosecution and police for its defeat.

NKP's top election manager Yi Hoe-chang told a press conference at party headquarters, "It is significant that a new politics and freshman politicians...have emerged. By demonstrating that they don't want old politics to continue, the electorate has provided the momentum needed to break free of the old system to begin a new political era."

Ascribing the NKP's "good fight" to public support for "reform amid stability," the ruling party's election motto, Yi pledged, "above all, we'll try to improve and enhance the quality of life for all citizens."

The former prime minister also indicated that the NKP might admit successful independent candidates into its fold when he said, "If they agree with NKP's basic policies and ideology, we'll keep our door wide open to accommodate as many of them as possible."

In a statement issued in the name of its campaign committee, NCNP said that its defeat resulted not so much from "a lack of ability and effort but from external factors including television, the prosecution and police that scrutinized the opposition and protected the ruling party."

NCNP charged the administration with "the most sophisticated government-sponsored election rigging."

Television news crews were mobilized to exaggerate the tensions mounting in the truce village of Panmunjom, the prosecution and police employed strategems against and slandered NCNP, while conniving at massive financial subsidies for ruling party candidates, the statement charged.

"The major opposition party is keenly aware of its responsibilities and will faithfully cope with the future in accordance with public aspirations," the statement added.

ULD leader Kim Chong-pil told the press, "I think we have secured a parliamentary strength that is neither big nor small, but sufficient for us to play an important role on the floor."

"We will forcefully keep the ruling party in check in cooperation with other parties including NCNP. We will, however, discard the practice of mounting offensives for the sake of opposition, we are going to cooperate with the ruling party when necessary," Kim said.

Asked whether he would seek presidency next year, Kim said, "It is too early to discuss the matter now as it is not to be decided simply on one's own. I will persistently push for the realization of a parliamentary cabinet system in the 15th National Assembly."

The minor opposition Democratic Party pledged to do all that it can "to rebuild a new opposition party that can win popular support."

DP campaign spokesman Kim Hong-sin said in a statement, "It is indeed disheartening that excellent candidates with virtue and competence have been frustrated... We believe that it represents the darkness that comes before dawn and the sunshine will be shining before long."

ROK: Government Delegation to OECD Departs for Paris 11 Apr

SK1204024396 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 12 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Korean delegation, led by Vice Minister of Labor Affairs Choe Sung-pu, left for Paris yesterday to attend a labor committee meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

During the meeting of Employment, Labor and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC), scheduled for April 15-17, the six Korean delegates will explain the nation's labor situation to the committee.

The conference of ELSAC, one of the OECD's 26 subcommittees, is held as a reviewing session to decide whether South Korea meets the prerequisites for OECD membership.

The government has pushed to join the group of advanced countries within the year.

"The delegation will do its best to convince the committee that the Korean government has a strong will to revise domestic labor-related laws," Vice Labor Minister Choe said.

ROK To Provide 3 Million Dollars in Aid to Bosnia

SK1204102196 Seoul YONHAP in English 1005 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seoul, April 12 (YONHAP) — The government has decided to provide 3 million U.S. dollars in grant- type assistance to Bosnia through 1999 for use in its war rehabilitation and economic reconstruction.

The government is also studying a plan to furnish an unspecified amount of credit assistance by way of an international financial organization, a Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

He said the government will disclose the aid plan at the Bosnia assistance meeting opening in Brussels on Friday and Saturday under the sponsorship of the World Bank and EU Executive Committee.

Saying that his government decided to take part in Bosnia assistance from a humanitarian approach, the official said he is sure the planned aid will be helpful to building a cooperative system between Korea and the European Union as well.

ROK Government To Regulate Imports of Foreign Cigarettes

SK1204000496 (Internet) The Chungang Ilbo WWW in English 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Korean government began a crackdown to regulate the importation of foreign cigarettes and the amount procured by importers in order to prevent a sharp surge in their imports as well as their cornering and hoarding by distributors in the anticipation of a cost increase for cigarettes in July.

The Ministry of Finance and Economy announced on the 11th that it plans to regulate the amount of cigarette imports by foreign cigarette importers and the Korea Tobacco and Ginseng Corporation so that the amount can be maintained at less than 55 percent of the amount imported during the six-month period between October 1995 to March 1996.

Burma

Burma: SLORC Issues State Budget Law 1996

BK1204004996 Rangoon THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR in English 30 Mar 96 p 3

[The State Law and Order Restoration Council 1996 State Budget Law — Law No. 4/96 — issued on 29 March 1996]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] hereby enacts the following law:

PART I

Title and Date of Enforcement 1. (a) This law shall be called the state budget Law, 1996; (b) This law shall come into force from 1st April, 1996 for the 1996-97 financial year.

PART II [Heading] The SLORC, Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, government, chief justice, attorney general, auditor general, ministries and departments.

Chapter I

Receipts and Expenditures 2. The State Law and Order Restoration Council, Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, government, chief justice, attorney general, auditor general, ministries and departments shall carry out their functions in accordance with the state budget programme. In carrying out such functions, all receipts shall be credited to the state budget and all expenditures payable shall be debited from the state budget. 3. (a) The respective persons who have been given the responsibility for the receipts and expenditures of the SLORC, Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, government, chief justice, attorney general, auditor general, ministries and departments shall supervise and collect those receipts and administer those expenditures as are shown against them in Schedules (1), (2), (3) and (4); (b) The respective persons who have undertaken the responsibility under subsection (a) may delegate their powers to the respective persons serving under them; (c) Supervision and collection of the receipts and administration of the expenditures shall be in accordance with the provisions of this law, relevant laws, rules, regulations, bye-laws, orders, directives and procedures. 4. (a) Out of the estimated receipts shown in Schedules (1) and (3), if foreign aids and loans received under Chapter 111 exceed the estimated amount, and if expenditures of those work which are to be incurred out of such excess amount received as foreign aids and loans are in excess of the sanctioned expenditures shown in Schedules (2) and (4), the government may approve after scrutiny. Provided that, if expenditures to be incurred out of the State Budget in kyats converted from the aforesaid foreign aids and loans are not covered by the sum shown in Schedules, (2) and (4), then it may be incurred out of the reserve fund in accordance with the provisions of section 6; (b) The government shall submit matters relating to expenditures in excess permitted under subsection (a) to the SLORC together with objects and reasons casewise. 5. In respect of any alterations of sums shown in Schedules (1), (2), (3) and (4) under requirement of work, it shall be shown in the revised estimate budget for the 1996-97 financial year submitted to the SLORC.

Chapter II

Reserve Fund 6. (a) Expenditures incurred by the SLORC, Multiparty Democracy General Election Commission, government, chief justice, attorney general, auditor general, ministries and departments out of the reserve fund shown in Schedule (4), column 12 shall be effected only in accordance with the following conditions:

(i) being expenditure which cannot be anticipated;

(ii) being a case in which expenditure must be incurred within the financial year;

(iii) where transfer of budget heads cannot be effected or where there is no allotment for transfer of budget heads under the existing laws, rules, regulations and bye-laws; (b) Any expenditure from the reserve fund shall be made only by the decision of the government; (c) The government shall submit matters relating to expenditure to be incurred out of the reserve fund to the SLORC together with objects and reasons casewise. 7. The SLORC, Multi-Party Democracy General Election Commission, government, chief justice, attorney general, auditor general, ministries and departments shall not be allowed to submit supplementary budget of the state in respect of receipt of amounts in excess of or less than the estimated amount under this law or appropriation of allotment by transferring budget heads within the sanctioned expenditure or expenditure incurred from the reserve fund or expenditure incurred with the sanction of the government under section 4. Provided that if expenditures in conformity with the conditions contained in section 6 are not covered by the reserve fund allowed under this law, then such expenditures may be submitted to the SLORC together with objects and reasons casewise.

Chapter III

Taking of Loans 8. For the purpose of projects or for expenditures shown in the state budget, the government may take loans by issuing security bonds guaranteed by government or debentures or by other means, within the country or from abroad. Reasonable rates of interest may be prescribed for such loans. Conditions for repayment, redemption or provision otherwise may also be stipulated. 9. Regarding loans obtained by issuing security bonds for covering the deficit in the budget of the previous financial year, new security bonds may be issued when payment of the loan becomes due. 10. The State Economic Organizations and Cantonment Municipalities may take loans from abroad, for their projects with the approval of the government. 11. (a) The government may empower the minister of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue for carrying out wholly or partly the duties contained in this Chapter III; (b) The minister of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue may, on behalf of the state furnish guarantees for the taking of loans under this Chapter III. 12. During the financial year commencing 1st April 1996 and ending on 31st March 1997 the amount of loans actually received by the execution of !oan agreements under this Chapter III shall not exceed kyats fifty thousand million.

PART III

State Economic Organizations 13. The state economic organizations shall carry out their functions in accordance with the state budget programme. In carrying out such functions, all receipts shall be credited to the state budget and all expenditures payable shall be debited from the state budget. 14. (a) The respective persons who have been given the responsibility for the receipt and expenditure of the State Economic Organizations shall supervise and collect those receipts and administer those expenditures as are shown against them on Schedules (5) and (6); (b) The respective persons who have undertaken the responsibility under subsection (a) may delegate their powers to the respective persons serving under them; (c) Supervision and collection of the receipts and administration of the expenditures shall be in accordance with the provisions of this law, relevant laws, rules, regulations, bye-laws, orders, directives and procedures. 15. (a) The Government may alter the amounts shown in Schedules (5) and (6), if it becomes necessary for the functions of the State Economic Organizations. Such alterations shall be shown in the revised estimate budget for the 1996-97 financial year submitted to the State Law and Order Restoration Council together with objects and reasons therefore; (b) The Government may determine the amount of money to be contributed by the State Economic Organizations towards the state.

PART IV

Cantonment Municipalities 16. The Cantonment Municipalities shall subsist on their own funds and shall carry out their functions in accordance with their budget programmes. 17. (a) The respective persons who have been given the responsibility for the receipt and expenditure of Cantonment Municipalities shall supervise and collect those receipts and administer those expenditures as are shown against them in Schedules (7) and (8); (b) The respective persons who have undertaken the responsibility under subsection (a) may delegate their powers to the respective persons serving under them; (c) Supervision and collection of the receipts and administration of the expenditures shall be in accordance with the provisions of this law, relevant laws, rules, regulations, bye-laws, orders, directives and procedures. 18. (a) The government may alter the amounts shown in Schedules (7) and (8), if it becomes necessary for the functions of Cantonment Municipalities. Such alterations shall be shown in the revised estimate budget for the 1996-97 financial year submitted to the SLORC together with objects and reasons therefore. (b) The government may permit Cantonment Municipalities to obtain money required for carrying out their functions or for investment from grants or loans. 19. The Cantonment Municipalities may collect only such rates and taxes permitted by the existing laws, rules, regulations, bye-laws, orders, directives as are relevant to them.

Chapter V

Development Committees and Municipalities 20. The government may grant loans and contributions to the Development Committee and Municipalities.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Malaysia: Mahathir Interested in Information Technology

OW1004122696 Tokyo SAPIO in Japanese
10 Apr 96 pp 102-104

[Article by Kenichi Omae, director of the Heisei Policy Research Institute: "Essence of 'Hands-On' Spirit Prime Minister Mahathir Revealed in His Incognito Visit"; first paragraph is SAPIO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahathir (of Malaysia) has appointed Kenichi Omae as an advisor to the National Information Technology Conference. Mahathir has been promoting a strategy toward the 21st century in which his nation will be information based. Prime Minister Mahathir, who is 70 years old, is all fired up: he operates a personal computer himself and has his own Internet home page. How many politicians over 70 years of age in Japan can we find who operate personal computers and use the Internet? Mahathir does not leave things for others to take care of; rather, he gets directly involved himself. He has a clear vision of how he is to lead his country toward the 21st century.

To Forge a 21st Century Country Which Is Information Based, the Prime Minister Went Directly to Akihabara

In late February, Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia made an anonymous visit to Japan, staying two nights and three days. His purpose was to familiarize himself with the multimedia situation in Japan. This was in connection with his plan to create an information-based nation by the year 2020, a plan which he has devised to establish as a national strategy for the 21st century. They are now building a new capital in Malaysia called Putrajaya about 30 km south of Kuala Lumpur. They are planning to create a multimedia super corridor by connecting this city, the new airport, which is scheduled to be opened in 1998, and Kuala Lumpur by optic fiber. I am the one who proposed the "multimedia super corridor" concept in March of last year. Prime Minister Mahathir immediately commenced work on this project, obtained a budget appropriation, and began to pursue it this year. I was also appointed special advisor to the NITCCA (National Information Technology Conference) and am serving as an advisor for this national project. Prime Minister Mahathir came to Japan to see for himself the new multimedia technology and latest digital communication technology that can be useful for the promotion of this project.

First, Prime Minister Mahathir went to Akihabara, a place he likes very much. "Malaysia Chamber of Commerce" President Yahaya (who is also the de facto owner of 'Proton' — an automaker created as the result of a national policy, and President of the Heavy Industry Public Corporation), "Telecomm Malaysia" President Said, and others accompanied him. Prime Minister Mahathir has visited Akihabara every time he has come to Japan. This time, however, multimedia was the object. So I took the group to stores in Akihabara that mainly handle personal computers and digital communication-related merchandise, such as Sofumapu and T Zone, instead of to the usual stores that deal mainly in household appliances.

After walking around for two-and-a-half hours, he purchased a Ricoh digital camera, the software to connect it with a personal computer, and a Sony printer to print out from the computer pictures taken with the digital camera. He also bought, among other things, a Casio wristwatch with a compass. (Prime Minister Mahathir is a devout Moslem and always wants to know the direction of the holy city of Mecca.) He displayed great interest in the latest digital VCR and, after a lengthy examination, wanted to buy one. However, unfortunately they did not have one with PAL specifications, which is used in Malaysia. Later, when we made an inspection tour at Sony, we asked them to look for one. He was really happy when he was able to obtain one.

The Epson potable projector, which can be connected to a computer, was also on the list of things he wanted to buy. Prime Minister Mahathir writes his own speeches. Now he wants to also make presentations with his own charts and diagrams, using a computer and projector. Those items, however, were not sold in Akihabara. So he took them home very happily when NTT presented them to him as gifts.

Visiting a widescreen television corner, he asked detailed questions such as: "In a multiple channel screen, which picture's sound do we hear?" "How do they supplement clarity of image that has been achieved in ordinary NTSC and PAL?" and so on.

Also at the portable telephone corner, he asked all sorts of questions concerning the difference between cellular and PHS. He wanted an explanation from Telecomm Malaysia President Mohammed Said, who accompanied him, on "why can't we reduce the size of Malaysian portable telephone so they are like the Japanese ones?" (the Malaysian portable telephone is substantially larger than the Japanese telephone) and on "why can't we reduce our telephone bills to the Japanese level?" President Said was struggling to come up with responses.

Prime Minister Mahathir was surprised by the fact that there was much more activity in Akihabara than during his previous visit (last fall). He was saying that "I do not think the Japanese business situation is bad." Another phenomenon was, depending on the kind of store, there was great unevenness in business activity. He was surprised by the contrast that computer and digital communication-related stores were full and busy but household appliance stores were quiet.

In Japan today, the business situation is likened to the pattern of a zebra: there is a clear division between the sectors that are in good condition and the sectors which are in a slump. In Akihabara, as well, this zebra condition exists. The household appliance and AV related businesses are very cool, but computer and digital communication business is very good. Prime Minister Mahathir is — as may be expected — sharp. He clearly perceived that phenomenon just by walking around in Akihabara.

The following day, we went to Sony in the morning and had them show merchandise for three to four years in the future, utilizing the latest imaging technology and electrical transmission technology such as the DVD (digital video disk).

He Controlled Vanguard Television Conference Himself

In the afternoon, we went to NTT and observed a demonstration of a vanguard technology called OCN (open computer network). This is a concept of creating a virtual private network utilizing fiber optics. This was the technology to which Prime Minister Mahathir paid the greatest attention during this visit. The reason is that Prime Minister Mahathir has been thinking that they should not always hold cabinet conferences and so on only in Kuala Lumpur. Rather, even when ministers are scattered all over the country, by using television, they should be able to hold conferences from several different points. They have already initiated television conference using the ISDNCA (integrated service digital network), but movement is not realistic, and there is also a security problem. As a result, he was looking forward to the new NTT technology.

To offer the conclusion first, the demonstration by NTT showed that it had overcome the two problems, of human quality (whether or not the images look like people) and of security. The Prime Minister appeared to take his hat off to this. That was because, for instance, the people who were in different locations were shown as if they were sitting next to each other at the table, and a totally natural dialogue was possible. Also, because Malaysia is a multiethnic country and has all sorts of difficult problems, they do not want even the operators to listen in. So Prime Minister Mahathir had said that he himself wanted to operate the control for scrambling used in television conferences. The "vanguard television conference system" of NTT enabled the participants to exercise such control freely.

In a similar technology, a number of telephone companies and manufacturers from Europe and the United States had tried to make sales to the Malaysian Government, but NTT answered all of Prime Minister Mahathir's questions and almost completely satisfied his desires.

Also, as for the issue of how to coordinate the roles of electronic money (e-cash) and the central bank, which issues the currency, in the "digital money" era, NTT provided an answer. Under the current situation, even though the electronic money era has arrived and it is no longer necessary to carry large sums of cash, people have to carry many credit cards and prepaid cards in their pockets. As a solution, NTT demonstrated that it could combine all the cards — those from banks, credit card companies, the telephone company.

After viewing a series of demonstrations, Prime Minister Mahathir was impressed, saying that "I thought that NTT was just a telephone company, but actually it is a 'technology company.' I did not know that it had placed so much emphasis on research and development." He asked President Said [of Telecomm Malaysia], "why don't we ask NTT to do the complete basic design for the multimedia super corridor?"

The United States is believed to be the world's most advanced country in the digital communication field, but he seemed to have reconfirmed his awareness that, for hardware technology, Japan is in the vanguard.

CEO and Plant Manager for Malaysia Co., Ltd.

Prime Minister Mahathir is a great "hands-on" person. He does not leave things to others, but always gets personally involved. In fact, once again this time, in order to obtain technology transfer for the manufacturing of metal casts for machinery parts, he brought along Malaysian factory managers and visited metal cast factories in Kamata and Omori in Ota-ward. They can not yet make highly accurate metal casts in Malaysia. Therefore, they can not make core parts ("child components") for automobiles and have to import them from Japan. So their export competitiveness is low. He is leading a movement to acquire this technology from Japan and enable his country to manufacture the parts domestically.

His tenacity of purpose is noticeable. It is manifested by the fact that the Prime Minister goes underneath the machines and asks detailed questions such as "When you operate this machine, which parts of the metal casts touch each other?" and "How is this connected to the press?" and so on. He gave orders on the spot to the managers to "think what you must do to be able to do this."

When he saw a machine that made metal casts from a metal ribbon in a 16-stage continuous process, he took many of the metal casts from each stages as samples. This is what I mean by "hands on."

As for multimedia, the Prime Minister himself, of course, uses a personal computer daily and has a home page on the Internet. It was noted, that he also has had a discussion with President Ramos (of the Philippines) via the Internet. Deputy Prime Minister Anwar, who is considered to be the heir apparent and other cabinet ministers are said to have started using computers and the Internet to keep pace with the Prime Minister.

Thus, Prime Minister Mahathir is leading the government effort to transform Malaysia into a top-notch information technology nation among the ASEAN countries.

On the one hand, he is aiming to create a country based on information through multimedia; and, on the other hand, he is trying to accumulate the know-how that will enable them to produce highly accuracy parts. He believes that once Malaysians are able to sustain themselves with the advantages brought about through information and know-how, Malaysia will be secure for the time being. His scenario for the 21st century is that he will create the trail and leave the rest to Deputy Prime Minister Anwar.

If Singapore's Senior Minister, Lee Kuan Yew, is the owner-president of "Singapore Co., Ltd," then Prime Minister Mahathir would be the president/plant manager of "Malaysia Co., Ltd." The Prime Minister is 70 years old and has already been in the position for 15 years. However, his passion for the development of his country has not weakened at all since the time I became acquainted with him, which was right after he assumed the post. Rather, it seems to be getting stronger.

Look at Malaysia, where the Prime Minister himself with "hands-on" leads the national strategy and Japan, where private enterprises have the highest-level technology in the world, yet where politicians and bureaucrats have in their minds only self-protection, vested interests, and ministry interests and lack the concept of a comprehensive strategy for the nation. It goes without saying whose future is bright.

Cambodia

Cambodia: DPRK Ambassador Song Ho-kyong Recalled

BK1104130296 Hong Kong AFP in English 1222 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PHNOM PENH, April 11 (AFP) — The North Korean ambassador to Cambodia, who allegedly gave sanctuary to a Japanese terrorist, is to be replaced by the end of "next week," a ministry of foreign affairs official said Thursday.

"(North Korean Ambassador Song Ho-kyong) called to tell me that he will be recalled and replaced," said Foreign Affairs Minister Ing Huot, who was told the ambassador will be replaced by Kim Yong-sop.

The North Korean embassy could not be reached to confirm the appointment.

The North Korean embassy reportedly provided refuge and assistance to Yoshimi Tanaka, 47, a member of the Japanese Red Army gang believed to have been involved in the hijacking of a Japan Airlines (JAL) jet in 1970, before he made a failed attempt to flee to Vietnam last month.

Cambodian police in Phnom Penh, who participated in Tanaka's arrest, were tipped-off from Thailand that Tanaka was being provided sanctuary in the North Korean embassy and that he would be leaving March 23, the English-language bi-weekly newspaper Phnom Penh Post reported in its latest edition.

Police staked-out the embassy until a diplomatic Mercedes escorting Tanaka from the compound emerged on the same evening, and began a 160 kilometer (100 mile) chase to the Vietnamese border along National Route One, the paper reported.

Tanaka, who was accompanied by three Korean diplomats, was stopped by customs police at the border and returned to Phnom Penh the same day, the paper reported.

Ing Huot said that he was not aware if the three diplomats accompanying Tanaka in his flight to the border would be arrested.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs Under Secretary of State Marina Pok said Thursday that the decision to recall Ambassador Song was an "internal affair of North Korea.

Cambodia: Capture of Alleged Counterfeiter Detailed

BK1204045596 Phnom Penh PHNOM PENH POST in English 5-18 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by John C. Brown]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Interpol and Cambodian police chased a North Korean embassy car to the Vietnamese border on March 23, eventually arresting a suspected international terrorist and counterfeiter who was hiding inside with three fake North Korean passports.

But it took a two-day standoff, while the man — Japanese-born Yoshimi Tanaka, also known as Hayashi Kasinori and "Kim Il Suu" among other aliases — refused to budge.

Cambodian customs officials and police were at various times offered up to $40,000 in bribes to let him cross the border.

"He ate, slept, shit and pissed in car," one customs official told the Post.

Tanaka, 47, a former Military Commissar of the Japanese Red Army terrorist group, is now in Bangkok, where he will face charges of distributing fake US money.

The Thais say he'll then be extradited to Japan for his part in the 1970 hijacking of an airliner to North Korea. The United States and North Korea have also informally requested his extradition.

Tanaka — named as Kasinori in an arrest warrant from Phatthaya, Thailand — was turned over to Ministry of

Interior officials by three men said to be North Korean diplomats at the ministry's compound on the night of March 25.

The Phatthaya Police Station arrest warrant, signed by police colonel Sutthiphong Ramanwong, said in part "it is commanded to arrest Hayashi Kasinori" for "the passing of counterfeit foreign currency."

Tanaka was a 21-year-old student when he and eight other members of the Red Army allegedly hijacked a Japanese airliner to Pyongyang. Watanabe Yasushi, a journalist with the Asia Watchers Group in Bangkok who has been following Tanaka's story, said Tanaka disappeared after the hijacking to resurface in Phatthaya last September, when he was arrested for passing counterfeit money. In February this year he escaped, presumably coming to Cambodia.

When captured in Cambodia, Tanaka was said by Cambodian police to be carrying three North Korean passports and $40,000.

Interpol agents and Cambodian police cooperated in the operation that began with a stake-out of the North Korean Embassy and ended in extended negotiations in the Ministry of Interior compound after a car chase to the Vietnamese border at Bavet.

Cambodian police in Phnom Penh say they received a tip-off from Thailand that Tanaka was at the North Korean Embassy in Phnom Penh and would be leaving there on Saturday 23 March. A stake-out was immediately arranged.

Police say they had Tanaka's picture and that the tip-off included the make of the car — a Mercedes — and its license plate (CD004). They say that they waited all Sunday, following each car that emerged and searching each one for Tanaka. They were joined by four Interpol agents, who said Interpol had been chasing Tanaka for six or seven years.

Interpol told Cambodian police that the bills Tanaka had produced were so good that the United States had been prompted to change its $100 denominations.

This claim has not been confirmed by other sources, but new U.S. $100 bills became available internationally just last week. On Saturday evening, the Mercedes with blacked-out windows emerged from the North Korean Embassy, which is near the Independence Monument. A team of police in a single car decided to follow it as it drove toward the Vietnamese border along National Route One.

The Mercedes' driver tried evading the police, and the police car suffered a flat tire. The policemen say they abandoned their stricken car and flagged down a taxi to continue chasing, with one policeman taking over the wheel because the taxi driver refused to go fast enough.

The policemen said the chase was hair-raising because of the narrowness of the road and the number of potholes. But they said that they tried to stay as close as possible, and that all the while the taxi's speed warning was chiming.

The diplomatic Mercedes stopped at Bavet, on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border about 160 kilometers east of Phnom Penh.

There it would stay for almost two days.

The customs police at the border say they had also been warned about Tanaka. They had been given a photo of him on Friday, 22 March. On the 23rd of March, customs police say, a policeman from the Ministry of Interior, an American policeman and a Cambodian interpreter from the U.S. Embassy came to the crossing point to warn that the "counterfeiter" might try to leave the country at Bavet.

On the morning of the 24th, at 9:30 am, the Mercedes approached one of the four customs booths with four men inside. Officers say three of the men got out and handed over four North Korean diplomatic passports. The first two passports were good, but the picture in the third — issued on March 6 — matched Tanaka's.

Customs officials said it was normal that some of the occupants of a diplomatic car would decline to emerge to be personally checked against their passport.

A source in Phnom Penh told the Post that the car contained Tanaka, a driver, the North Korean Second Secretary for Commerce and the North Korean Military Attache. This was not confirmed by other sources.

The Korean officials were told that there was some problem with one of the passports and were asked if they would come into the main building to fill out a form. Customs officials said that the Korean officials at this point complained that they were very busy and had to cross into Vietnam immediately.

The Koreans said that they were diplomats, that North Korea was a good friend of Cambodia, and that King Sihanouk would be displeased if he knew that they were being detained by border police.

Interior Police later said that they were also threatened with the King's name. "We know the King very well and he is a friend of North Korea, if we talk to him you will be in great trouble," one of the diplomats was quoted by an Interior Ministry policeman as saying. Policemen say they politely offered to allow the diplomat to go back to Phnom Penh and talk to the King — "on foot". The offer was declined.

The Korean diplomat then offered cash to the Customs officials at the border checkpoint in exchange for being allowed to pass. "It was $30,000," one customs officer said. Another said, "We almost lost consciousness when we saw the money."

Four Interior Ministry police later said that they were also offered money, $10,000 each. In both cases the money was rejected. A Customs official later interviewed joked: "We should have taken the money and then arrested them."

The diplomats were persuaded to go into the barbed wire enclosure of the main customs' buildings with their car. Another customs police later said, "This was the key, the most important thing." The diplomats would not leave the compound for the next day and a half; the gate was later closed behind them. Though three diplomats freely moved in and out of their car, the fourth man, Tanaka, never left the car.

Customs officials said that the diplomats complained that they were able to go visit King Sihanouk at his Palace compound with no difficulty, and wanted to know why were they being detained in the Customs' compound. "What have we done wrong?" Customs Officials quote them as asking. They were assured that they had done nothing wrong, the Customs officers said that they told them, "We just have to wait for our boss to come."

Interpol agents also arrived at the border, Customs officials say, first on the 23rd, returning to Phnom Penh that same day. On the 24th, four Interpol agents, three men and one woman returned and remained until the Mercedes left the compound under escort at 6:30 pm on the 25th. Customs officials and Interior Ministry police say that they were Americans.

It was upon the arrival of the Interpol agents, Customs Police say, that one diplomat quickly took the four passports from the table where they lay, handing them to another Korean embassy official who ran back to their car with them, where Tanaka waited.

After nearly two days and one night in the Customs compound, the Korean officials agreed to return to Phnom Penh. Interior police said that the Koreans turned down the ministry's offer to provide a driver. Why they decided to return to Phnom Penh is not clear, but as they waited for additional Interior Ministry police to arrive for their escort, according to Customs officials, the Koreans threatened to break through the locked compound gate with their car and return to Phnom Penh on their own.

The Mercedes left Bavet under a six-car escort, two in the front and four to the rear. Police also say that soldiers were deployed along the road from Bavet to Phnom Penh "because the Interpol agents were afraid that the man would escape somewhere along the way".

When the cars arrived in Phnom Penh Saturday evening, roadblocks had been set up so that the car could only go into the Ministry of Interior compound.

There it was met "by a high official from the Ministry of Interior," police said, who negotiated with the officials for two hours before Tanaka was turned over to Cambodian police and Interpol agents.

Tanaka was flown to Bangkok Tuesday, 25 March.

The North Korean Embassy in Phnom Penh declined comment to the Post.

Cambodia: Report Questions Timber Deal With Thai Companies

BK1204050296 Phnom Penh PHNOM PENH POST in English 5-18 Apr 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Matthew Grainger]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Prime Ministers have personally signed over a million cubic meters of timber to 17 Thai companies, in three separate deals marked "confidential."

The deals, struck in January and February, follow January 18 talks in Bangkok between Agriculture Minister Tav Senghuo and Thai Defense Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut.

Prime Ministers Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen told Thai Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha that the timber had already been cut before the April 1995 logging and export ban.

However, Senghuo's own ministry's records show that there's only 331,000 cubic meters of felled timber left in the Kingdom.

British environmental lobbyist Global Witness have confirmed that many of the Thai companies which appear on the Government's "million meter" list are cutting trees again.

This was a departure, done in secret, from the Government's logging ban, Global Witness directors Patrick Alley and Simon Taylor said.

Taylor and Alley also obtained a copy of a permit "officially" stamped by the "Khmer Rouge Government" given to one of the same Thai companies on the Royal Government's concession list. It is signed by "Timber

Selling Committee No. 909" and was issued on March 3, expiring four months later.

Alley and Taylor said the Thais were "gearing up" for freshly cut timber from Cambodia. They had seen documents from the Thai Foreign Ministry to local customs offices telling officers to expect the timber so it can be taxed.

Some of the Thai logging companies were new in the area, so couldn't possibly have pre-felled timber inside Cambodia, they said.

Alley and Taylor were told that "fresh timber" would be available to buy within weeks.

A million cubic meters of wood equates to about 200,000 trees — and at world market prices, worth anything from $350 million to $600 million or more.

"The question must be asked where all the money's going," Alley said.

The documents don't say how much income Cambodia expects to receive. They don't mention any money at all, other than to say that timber tax will be paid into the Ministry of Finance.

Senghuo said the deals were "in principle only", and he agreed that there was nothing like a million cubic meters of timber in Cambodia already felled before the Government ban.

He said the Thai companies had told the Government how much felled timber they reckoned they had, and Ranariddh and Hun Sen signed the deals on the understanding that Cambodian authorities would verify this. The logging companies would have to prove the quantity and quality of their reserves before they took a single log across the border, he said. There would be no fresh cutting of trees, he said.

"If they say (they have) 10,000 cubic meters, but only show us 1,000 cubic meters, we will accept only 1,000 cubic meters," Senghuo said, adding that the timber would be re-checked on the Thai side as per his agreement with Chawalit.

Senghuo also said he had whole files of applications from Thai companies, saying they had old logs to bring out of Cambodia.

The tax the Thai companies will pay to Treasury would depend on the amount and quality of the timber exported, he said.

On average, Treasury only gets about $35 per cubic meter in royalties, according to Global Witness figures confirmed by international bankers spoken to by the Post.

Global Witness have previously recorded a conversation with a Thai logging official who said that cash from timber is split between Thai and Cambodian officials — including the Prime Ministers and Senghuo, and others — the military, the Khmer Rouge, and the logging companies' own profit.

International donors contacted by the Post had heard "rumors" of logging deals having been struck with the Thais.

When presented with proof, one donor chief said he "would watch with interest" to see whether such a large, "unexpected" windfall would find its way into the State coffers.

Treasury revenue estimates approved in November by the Council of Ministers show that only around $11 million in forestry revenue is expected for 1996 — the amount being so low because the logging ban is still to be in place. This includes income from illegal logs seized by authorities and auctioned.

Aid donors — preparing for July's Donors' Consultative Group meeting in Toyko where Cambodian aid would be discussed — are losing patience with the Government over logging.

"If the Government is selling natural resources in excess of $100 million, and the money doesn't get to the Budget, then the taxpayers in Japan, the United States, Australia and everywhere else would be entitled to ask why are they are giving money to Cambodia," said one high-ranking donor official.

Despite Senghuo saying there was no new cutting going one, Global Witness visited the Thai border rest areas and has proof there is. The donor official said it appeared that the Thai deals were not consistent with Cambodia's export and cutting ban. "It's horrible," he said of the deal, "but it's their resource, they can do what they want."

The secrecy of the deal has been criticized, especially at a time when "transparency" is being sought.

"If the deals signal an end to the logging ban, then why was there no public or Parliamentary discussion," one source said.

"If they needed to cut trees to get money to feed the poor, why wasn't it done in the open, under debate? And why are these deals marked 'Confidential'?"

The Thai concessions are in "hostile" territory along the western border, much of it Khmer Rouge-held.

Alley said it was impossible to follow International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) guidelines of "control and supervision" in such areas, a convention Ranariddh consistently claims Cambodia adheres to.

Despite donor impatience, they still find themselves hamstrung to do much about it.

World Bank representatives overseas have said privately that the Government is "unwilling to compromise" over its logging practices, according to sources.

They quote Bank officials saying that the Government should get a good lawyer to renegotiate its logging deals.

"The sincerity of the Royal Government is in doubt... it all depends on Hun Sen controlling the army's logging operations," Bank officials told one Western source.

The Bank, the IMF and other donors are likely to tell the government in Tokyo to "pause, hold and review" its logging concessions.

A critical World Bank/IMF report on logging has recently been given to the government.

The Ministry of Finance — whose minister Keat Chhon will be asked the "hard questions" about logging at the donors meeting — has signed the report. Senghuo, it is understood, has yet to sign it. He told the Post he hoped to sign it by this week.

Senghuo, severely criticized in a new Global Witness report as denying the Ministry of Finance information on timber revenues, is "feeling the heat," according to one Western source quoting the World Bank.

Alley and Taylor have lobbied donors in Europe and America in the past three months, calling for "positive" conditionality on aid.

For a variety of reasons — and despite donors' concerns — putting conditions on aid is unlikely to happen. "They say 'if we cut aid it will only affect the poor sections of the community'," Alley said. "We're telling (donors) that if the forests go, then that very same section will be hurt anyway. It's not like the money is flowing into their pockets now anyway."

Donors are also worried that if they stand alone calling for aid conditions, they would be criticized by Cambodia. "We're telling donors to do it all together," Alley said.

Hun Sen has already effectively told donors to give aid and shut up, or don't give any aid at all. Sources say Hun Sen can say this because the government stands to get more money from timber than it would from many donors.

"It's a just question of mathematics," said one.

Multilateral donors say a timber export ban doesn't work because it "retards rent capture" — that is, forests will always be cut, and all a ban does is to stop money from timber from going into the State budget.

"The World Bank and the IMF want 'controlled' exports. We say that's crazy... If (the Government) can't control a ban, how can they control a control? The ban has got to be enforced without exception," Alley said.

Global Witness has also called for all existing timber concession to be terminated and renegotiated, and a full forest inventory carried out.

The present situation — where the Prime Ministers and Agriculture Minister Senghuo have full authority to award concessions — must change, Alley said.

"The Ministry of Finance do not possess sufficient authority and information to capture even a fraction of timber revenue," Alley said.

Cambodia: Ranariddh Discusses Vietnamese Border Talks

BK1104160196 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 11 Apr 96

[Speech by Cambodian First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh at a ceremony to open a primary school in Prey Chhor District of Kompong Cham Province on 11 Apr — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted greeting the gathering, praising local achievements and Hun Sen and other donors for contributing to local construction work] I would like also to take this opportunity to report to all brothers, sisters, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, aunts, students, and teachers on a number of developments in our nation. It will be a brief report, please do not worry, it will be very short. Yesterday in Phnom Penh, the samdech second prime minister and I led a delegation to meet with the Vietnamese delegation, led by His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet. We spoke for more than one and a half hours. Our two delegations discussed issues related to bilateral cooperation between our two countries, such as agriculture, trade, transportation, and so forth. This does not pose a problem, rather it shows good relations between our two countries, Cambodia and Vietnam. Our two delegations also raised a complex problem to discuss and solve. This complex problem is the border issue. This Cambodia-Vietnam border problem is very complicated. It is not just in Svay Rieng Province. This complex problem also is in Kompong Cham Province. That is to say, the Vietnamese have entered Cambodian territory in Kompong Cham, Takeo, and in Svay Rieng Province.

I would like to report to venerable monks, grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts, and to national television and radio on yesterday's talks. The Vietnamese declared that it would respect Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity as outlined in the Paris Agreements and the agreement and press communique dated 17 April [month as heard] 1995. The remaining problems are those in Svay Rieng and Kompong Cham Provinces. We raised the problem of Svay Rieng Province as the major topic. The Vietnamese side raised the interpretation of the joint communique, dated 17 January 1995, and signed between the two prime ministers, namely Vo Van Kiet and myself. The Vietnamese side used the phrase: to maintain the present state of occupancy. We said: the status quo must be maintained. After talking back and forth, we realized that the two phrases are the same. The Vietnamese 'present state' means the present. Whatever they do, today, yesterday, tomorrow, or the day after always means the present. I explained we Cambodians do not interpret it that way.

Some have expressed concern that Cambodian leaders are not on good terms. I would like to inform you that yesterday Samdech Hun Sen, the second prime minister, gave me this task. During our talks with the Vietnamese, we were constantly whispering to each other, consulting and exchanging views. The second prime minister also told me, through H.E. Ing Huot and himself, that he supported my stand in the talks with the Vietnamese. We Cambodians were not divided in our talks with the Vietnamese. This is the good news that I would like to pass on to you. It is the truth. I am not trying to flatter Samdech Hun Sen merely because I am in Kompong Cham Province, his province. I speak the truth and this is the truth. We must speak the truth, even if the truth does not sound so nice. This is what I want the national and international public to understand. [applause]

Look at those grandmothers, they promptly applauded, they are so smart. [applause]

I explained to the Vietnamese side that to us, the present state means the state, the status quo that existed prior to 17 January 1995 and after 17 January must not be revised. Anything that has been changed is not a present state. The present state that has changed every day cannot be called the present. If it were changed, the 17 January communique would be completely meaningless. Now the two sides have agreed to the following: to form a bilateral expert working group. This bilateral expert working group will personally go to Kompong Cham or Svay Rieng to conduct on-the-spot inspections and hold discussions with the local authorities and ask the local people about the status quo prior to 17 January. Only after knowing what the status quo is can the two governments meet to settle the problems appropriately with the condition prior to and after 17 January 1995. The Vietnamese insisted on discussing the present state of occupancy. The current state is not what they said it was. What they revised yesterday cannot be called the present state. If what is removed yesterday, today, tomorrow, or the day after is called present state, the 17 January would be meaningless. It should be called the thief [ah chao] then.

On our side, I would like to inform you that our two prime ministers are in agreement. The present state means the status quo prior to 17 January and nothing should be changed after 17 January. If anything is to be removed, it should be those who have moved in. They should move back. This is the stance of the Cambodian side. I dare not speak too much for fear that they might say that something has been done. I have made an uproar here in Kompong Cham. We will have the bilateral expert working group meet immediately to conduct an inspection on the spot, using the essence and letter of the 17 January 1995 communique as its basis. Anything that is contrary to the 17 January 1995 joint communique, the Royal Government will not accept. That is what I want to tell you. [applause]

There has been some progress. When I was in Phnom Penh, I prayed that for the sake of national interest, there may be unity within the ranks of the Royal Government. My prayer came true because there was unity among all leaders in the Royal Government of Cambodia during our talks with the Vietnamese side. [applause]

This is the good news that all Cambodians welcome. [passage omitted speaking about district governor's call for national unity and reconciliation]

I am happy to bring everyone this good news. I am happy to inform the national and international public, through our people in this Prey Chhor District, that two days ago, the two parties: the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], with me as chairman, held a bilateral meeting. The FUNCINPEC, led by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Ing Kiet, and the CPP, led by H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Sar Kheng, met for over an hour and then had an hour-long lunch with each other. They spent nearly three hours together in a joyous and constructive atmosphere. This is a good news that I bring to all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts. This is because we all feared that the leaders were not on good terms. After the meeting, the two delegations reached the following unanimous views:

1. To maintain and improve the alliance between the two parties from now until the future. This is the first

decision. [applause] H.E. Sar Kheng said we should take as much care of the alliance between our two parties as we do with our own eyes. This means that the alliance between the two parties is very important.

2. To continue working on the points upon which our two parties have agreed. Whatever we have not yet agreed upon, we must continue our discussions until we can settle all problems.

3. The two parties agreed that we must not use force, we must not confront one another, we must definitely not use military force as a means to settle problems.

I think that these three points are very significant and proper. The representatives of the leaders of the two parties, the two party committees, met, reached these decisions, and issued a joint communique. [applause] [passage omitted on other issues]

Cambodia: Hun Sen Interviewed on Current Situation

BK1104152596 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Interview with Second Prime Minister Hun Sen by unidentified CAMBODIA TIMES correspondent; place and date not given — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] [CAMBODIA TIMES] What are the problems the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] has with FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and, in your opinion, how can the problems be solved?

[Hun Sen] We have some problems with each other, but they are ordinary ones. Usually, every country and every coalition government has a similar disagreement; even though they love each other very much, sometimes, a couple will have contradicting views on certain issues. What is important is that for nearly three years, we have worked together closely and have achieved many good results for the nation and the people. We have brought peace and social stability, and have begun economic development. I firmly believe that all the political parties will continue to uphold, with the spirit of close national union, the interests of the nation and people with a view to safeguarding peace and stability for the sake of the country's prosperity.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] How closely will the CPP cooperate with FUNCINPEC?

[Hun Sen] I believe that Cambodia needs a coalition government, not just until 1998, but for another 10 to 15 years. As I have just said, cooperation between the two major parties is very important and the CPP wants to cooperate with all political parties — within or outside of the National Assembly — that work for the supreme interests of the nation and people.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] Which party is the CPP's biggest rival, and why?

[Hun Sen] The party that can most effectively provide the people with peace, stability, and well-being is our biggest rival.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] Why do you encourage creating more political parties?

[Hun Sen] It is the political right of our people. The more parties that are created, the wider the choice for the people will be.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] How are the CPP's plans for next elections?

[Hun Sen] The simplest way is for the CPP to show its value is through its activities in serving the people. It should in no way seek support from the people through criticism or the slander of other parties.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] Has the Kingdom of Cambodia already drafted its electoral law?

[Hun Sen] There are two electoral laws; that is, the local election law for 1997 and the general election law for 1998. The Interior Ministry, with the participation of some foreign experts, is actively drafting the two laws in a timely fashion for the consideration of the Royal Government [RG] and the adoption of the National Assembly.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] We are aware that the single-member constituency system is strongly supported. Will you select a foreign-style single-member constituency system, or create a new one for Cambodia?

[Hun Sen] It is true that the single-member constituency system is favored, because our people are in the habit of electing their MP for the supreme legislative institution this way. Through this electoral system, the people can either choose their representatives, or stand as an independent candidate. With the system, MP's will be freer in the National Assembly; that is, their (?parliamentary status) will not depend entirely on any political party. The single-member constituency system in our country might be [words indistinct]; that is, we will hold an election to support a candidate who has the most voices, for we are not financially strong enough to support elections one after the other.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] So far, has there been any discussion or examination of criteria to organize the single-member constituency system? If so, (?why are there political movements) nationwide against the system?

[Hun Sen] The prince krompreah [Norodom Ranariddh] and I have given the green light for the organization of the single-member constituency system, and the Interior Ministry is currently drafting a related law. Some political movements want to have a different electoral system, meaning the proportional representation system, arguing that the single-member constituency system will favor major political parties, in particular the CPP that most of our people have known. It has also been said that small parties will not be able to compete with us. For me, I believe that the MP's who are suitable to be elected are those who are known by the people and who are able and capable of serving the people whom they represent at the National Assembly.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] How long does it take you to draft the electoral law or to (?declare) the single-member constituency system official?

[Hun Sen] The organization of the elections is not my responsibility. The Interior Ministry is to coordinate with all concerned institutions to draw a draft electoral law. We will strive to complete the draft law in a timely fashion and present it for approval to the National Assembly. The electoral law is a necessary document for electoral work, but it is not the only concern of the RG for the election. We must also calculate the funds for the elections. We estimate that we will spend about $26 million for the election of communal chiefs. We estimate $5 million will be spent for the parliamentary election, as there is some equipment left from the previous general elections that can still be used for the parliamentary election. What is important is the census and the issuance of new standard identity cards for all citizens and especially the safeguarding of political stability to effectively ensure the election process.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] When will an electoral commission be established in Cambodia? Is there any guarantee that the commission will be independent?

[Hun Sen] We have already agreed in principle to create such a commission. Independence of the commission is, however, different from that of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] because now Cambodia is responsible for organizing everything and the international community and nongovernmental organizations are merely observers.

[CAMBODIA TIMES] In your opinion, what should be solved to ensure the future of Cambodia?

[Hun Sen] Cambodia has just emerged from a 20-year war. There is a lot of work we need to do and everything is a priority; nevertheless, we [words indistinct] as a locomotive to pull economic wagons. First, agriculture: we should pay attention to the problem of water [words indistinct]; second, infrastructure and commutations lines; third, electricity; and fourth, development of human resources. The main objective of the Royal Government of Cambodia in the economic sector is to achieve a lasting growth with equality and social justice for all. The rate of economic growth in 1994 was over 5 percent. It reached 7.7 percent in 1995. We hope that the rate will be maintained at 7 or 8 percent annually for four or five years.

Politically, what is important is the maintenance of stability for economic development. We will, however, strive to develop economy for the sake of political stability. Cooperation between various political parties within the spirit of national reconciliation and under the august and clear-sighted leadership of our revered king is also an important factor for political stability.

Concerning human rights, although we have not yet been able to carry out implementation fully and completely, we have made a lot of improvement that has been recognized internationally. It should not be forgotten, however, that Cambodia has just loomed from more than 20 years of war; therefore, the right to eat, dress, and stay, as well as the right to live without threat from the acts of genocide, is the most important and necessary one for the Cambodian people at this time. The National Assembly and RG have strongly encouraged the promotion of democracy and respect and protection of human rights for every people.

Regarding the Khmer Rouge, we have adopted a policy of extinguishing fire rather than [words indistinct]. We will continue to welcome back Khmer Rouge officers and soldiers and their families who have repented and broken loose from their ranks to join us.

Regarding international relations, after a forced diplomatic isolation for years, Cambodia has resumed relations with countries all over the world. Regionally, Cambodia has become an ASEAN observer, and hopes to become a full member in 1997. We have adopted a policy of peaceful coexistence with neighboring countries and are painstakingly solving problems, specifically the border problem, with our neighbors. We have displayed our efforts to use [words indistinct] in order to lead Cambodia toward prosperity and progress.

Cambodia: Hun Sen Readiness To Meet With All Parties Cited

BK1104131296 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 10 Apr 96 pp 1, 5

[Report by Saophoan: "Samdech Hun Sen Is Ready to Meet All Political Parties"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Samdech Hun Sen, second prime minister and vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party, said on 7 April that he was ready to meet with all political parties in order to discuss national construction and development. He also declared that "all the newly formed political parties are protected by the constitution."

A source from Samdech Hun Sen's office confirmed that Samdech Hun Sen said this to Nguon Soeu, leader of the Khmer Nation Party, and his colleagues who called on and held discussions with the samdech that day. The source added that in addition to discussing the current political situation in Cambodia, they also discussed the 1998 election system. Nguon Soeu voiced support for a single-member voting system for the 1998 elections.

Observers said that lately Hun Sen has made many efforts to consolidate his policy for democracy in Cambodia. In addition to this show of broadmindedness, which began with his meeting with Nguon Soeu, Samdech Hun Sen announced on 4 April that he would not sue any newspaper, no matter what criticism it made about him. [passage omitted]

Cambodia: Commander of 3d Divisional Group Reportedly Killed

BK1204074196 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 12 Apr 96 pp 1, 5

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] General Soem Pol, commander of the Third Divisional Group, was killed along with one of his bodyguards at 0900 on 9 April when his A-2 jeep ran over a mine laid by the Khmer Rouge in an area between Srei Snam and Varin Districts in Siem Reap Province. Another bodyguard was seriously wounded. According to a report received from the REAKSMEI KAMPUCHEA correspondent in Siem Reap, four vehicles were travelling together. When they neared the Chup bridge, 300 meters east of Kambao village, they tried to pass an ox cart by pulling to the side. While the three vehicles in front managed to move forward safely, the jeep in which the general was riding set off a mine and exploded.

The Third Divisional Group is responsible for the northwestern part of Siem Reap Province, including Srei Snam, Varin, Samraong, Chong Kal, and Angkor Thom Districts.

Indonesia

Indonesia: Suharto, Ukrainian President Sign Joint Declaration

BK1104123696 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Joint Declaration on the Principles of Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Indonesia and Ukraine has been signed. Here is RRI reporter Hardiyanto on the joint declaration that was signed by President Suharto and his Ukrainian counterpart President Leonid Kuchma at the Merdeka Palace this afternoon.

[Begin recording] [Hardiyanto] President Suharto and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma held one-on-one talks at the Merdeka Palace this afternoon. The heads of state signed the Joint Declaration on the Principles of Relations and Cooperation between the Republic of Indonesia and Ukraine. While President Suharto and President Kuchma held one-on-one talks, the ministers in charge of political and economic affairs of the two countries exchanged views at a separate venue. The meeting was followed by the signing of economic agreements between the economic affairs ministers of the two countries.

Minister and State Secretary Murdiono discussed the results of the talks between President Suharto and the Ukrainian president:

[Murdiono] Let me disclose the results of the talks in general:

The two presidents briefed each other on their respective domestic developments. They exchanged views mainly on economic affairs. The two presidents believe that Indonesia and the Ukraine can cooperate to develop their potential for their countries' economic progress. The Indonesian and Ukrainian presidents agreed on the need for the two countries to exchange information on their respective capabilities. They also agreed that the meeting between the two leaders should be followed up by an exchange of visits by ministers, senior officials, and businessmen from the two countries.

Indonesia and the Ukraine can explore cooperation in a number of areas, because, as we know, the Ukraine is a country with rapidly developing industries. Some of the industries use high technology. For example, the Ukraine produces a great number of highly sophisticated aircraft and possesses a vast shipping industry. The Ukraine produces ships, warships, and aircraft carriers.

It also has a rocket industry. In this regard, Ukraine is offering to share its experience in these industries with Indonesia. Of course, other possible areas of cooperation should be further studied. The Ukraine is well ahead in upstream industries, while we are well ahead in downstream industries. There will certainly be great benefits if the two sides develop their respective capabilities.

Knowing that the two countries have complementary elements, the Indonesian president proposed that a countertrade system be developed to enhance bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

The two sides agreed to establish an Indonesian-Ukrainian joint commission to enhance cooperation.

The Indonesian president raised the possibility of bilateral cooperation in the rocket industry in view of the Ukraine's expertise in launching rockets. The president hoped that our communication satellites could be launched from an area in our country, particularly in an equatorial area, because it is known that launching rockets from the equator is the best method.

[Hardiyanto] At this time, the Ukrainian state guest is holding a news conference at the State Guest House in Jakarta. [end recording]

Indonesia: Suharto Hosts State Banquet for Ukrainian President

BK1104125796 Jakarta SUARA KARYA in Indonesian 11 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jakarta — Several bilateral agreements are expected to be signed between Indonesia and Ukraine on 11 April. These agreements cover cooperation in the economy and technical know-how, avoidance of double taxation, investment promotion and protection, trade, and air services between the two countries.

President Suharto said that signing the agreements will create the conducive condition needed to promote trade and economic ties between Indonesia and Ukraine. "We have many opportunities to step-up mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries. The main thing is that we must be able to identify each other's potential," the head of state said at a state banquet held in honor of the visiting Ukrainian President Leonid D. Kuchma at the State Palace on Wednesday night, 10 April.

President and Madame Ludmyla Kuchma are in Indonesia at President Suharto's invitation. They will be guests of the state until 13 April. This is President Kuchma's first visit to Indonesia, and it is aimed at promoting friendship, economic, and trade cooperation between the two countries. Diplomatic ties between Indonesia and the Ukraine were established in 1992. [passage omitted on the industrial development in Ukraine]

Addressing a state banquet, which was attended by Madame Tien Suharto, Vice President and Madame Tuti Sutrisno, Suharto expressed his admiration at Ukraine's decision to become a nuclear-free state. Indonesia, along with other Southeast Asian countries, declared the region a nuclear weapon-free zone. Suharto also said that Ukraine's decision not to be affiliated with any military pact is wise. He said as the Ukraine is physically located in a strategic position on the European continent, to identify itself as a nonaligned country is a wise decision. Indonesia welcomes and supports the Ukraine's presence at the 11th Nonaligned Movement summit in Cartegena this year.

"We hope that the Ukraine will continue to increase its participation in the movement," Suharto said. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Indonesia: ASEAN's Concept of Unity Becoming 'Reality'

BK1104145796 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 8 Apr 96 p 4

[Editorial: "Cambodia in ASEAN, One Move Closer to Unity in Southeast Asia" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cambodian Prime Minister Ung Huot, on Wednesday 3 April, delivered his country's formal application for full membership in ASEAN to Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who is the current chairman of the standing committee of ASEAN.

After Ung Huot submitted the formal application, Alatas said he would convey it to the other ASEAN foreign ministers and the secretary general for further processing. Alatas was confident that Cambodia would be accepted as a member of ASEAN next year.

With the imminent admission of Cambodia into ASEAN next year, the idea set by the founders of ASEAN on 8 August 1967 to bring together all Southeast Asian countries under one grouping will soon be realized. By then, eight out of 10 Southeast Asian countries will be grouped under ASEAN.

ASEAN was established in Bangkok on 8 August 1967 with the membership of five Southeast Asian countries — the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. In 1994, Brunei Darusallam became ASEAN's sixth member, after it gained full independence from Britain. Vietnam became the seventh member on 27 July 1995. With Vietnam's admission into ASEAN, only three Southeast Asian countries are not ASEAN members, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar [Burma]. These three are also known as CLM.

The idea of uniting the 10 Southeast Asian countries is just a matter of time. This is because seven heads of states/government of ASEAN member countries and three heads of states/governments of CLM gathered for the first time in Bangkok in December 1995 for an informal meeting. A similar meeting will be held again in Bogor at the end of this year.

The idea to unite the 10 Southeast Asian countries under a regional grouping has been the ambition of the ASEAN founders since ASEAN was established 29 years ago. At that time Southeast Asian countries were divided and had become a theater for big powers such as the United States, the Soviet Union (now Russia), and China to exert their influence. As a matter of fact, several ASEAN member countries assisted the United States in its fight against North Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

It is difficult for Indonesia and the Nonaligned Movement, and other founders of ASEAN to accept the situation. That was why at the beginning the founders of ASEAN stressed, through the Bangkok Declaration (Declaration on the Establishment of ASEAN), that ASEAN would induce the creation of regional peace and stability in Southeast Asia through mutual respect among the Southeast Asian countries. The Declaration also stressed that law and order must be respected in ties between the countries in the region, and that they must adhere to the United Nations Charter.

ASEAN invited Vietnam to join ASEAN after the unification of the two Vietnams in 1975, following the end of the Vietnam war in 1973. At that time, however, Vietnam refused to do so and accused ASEAN of being allies of the United States. On the flip side, when Vietnam showed interest in joining ASEAN in 1978, ASEAN was reluctant to admit it. ASEAN became even more reluctant to entertain Vietnam's wish when it invaded Cambodia at the end of December 1978.

The reduction of tension between the United States and the Soviet union, which led to the end of the Cold War, also changed the face of Southeast Asia. The Indochinese countries — Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos — which used to be under communist rule, had abandoned the collective economic system and had begun implementing a market economy, which, at the time, had only been practiced by non- communist countries. The Indochinese countries then began opening their doors to foreign investment in stages.

The end of the Cold War was followed by the break up of the Soviet Union and relations between ASEAN and Indochina became more relaxed.

Relations improved after Vietnam withdrew its forces from Cambodia in 1989, and peace was achieved in Cambodia through the Paris Peace Treaty in 1991.

The hope for an eventual unity among all the Southeast Asian countries become closer to reality when in 1992 Vietnam and Laos stated their wish to sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia, TAC. In 1992 Vietnam and Laos became signatories of the TAC. Cambodia signed the TAC in 1995, and Burma remains the only Southeast Asian country that has not signed the agreement, we hope it will do so soon.

By signing the TAC, which is a code of conduct [preceding three words in English] for relations among Southeast East Asian countries, these countries are then expected to resolve any problem according to the method outlined in the treaty. No outside forces can be invited in to solve regional problems as they were in the Cold War era.

The participation of all Southeast Asian countries in ASEAN is expected to turn this region into a solid union. If problems emerge among them, they can be solved by applying the Southeast Asian method, outlined in the TAC. This way, peace and stability in the Southeast Asian region will be steady as they will not have been accentuated by outside interests, which usually do not complement the interests of countries in the region.

When all Southeast Asian countries are united under ASEAN, Southeast Asia will become a potential region for the production sector of member countries. The issue is how ASEAN member countries will overcome the problems caused by the different levels of economic development among them. This is especially important for the creation of ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

We are all mindful that this is not a simple or ordinary issue, larger interests are at stake. The wounds brought about by the split among the Southeast Asian countries during the Cold War are too momentous to be forgotten.

We hope that all the Southeast Asian countries will realize that the best thing for them is to turn this region into one entity and to solve all existing problems by using the methods outlined in the TAC.

Indonesia: Speaker on European Parliament's Invitation to OPM

BK1204031396 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 12 Apr 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] H. Wahono, speaker of the House of Representatives and chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia, has sent a letter of protest to Mr. Klaus Hansch, president of the European Parliament, over the European Parliament's invitation to the OPM [Free Papua Movement] to attend a hearing there. According to the house speaker's two-page letter of protest, the OPM is an illegal organization that perpetrates acts of terrorism. The European Parliament's invitation to the OPM will further encourage acts of terrorism nationally and internationally. "We can understand the European Parliament's concern over the safety of the hostages held by the OPM, but the invitation to the OPM amounts to adopting a double standard, because the European Parliament has consistently condemned acts of terrorism and refused to negotiate with terrorists."

Indonesia: Independent Election Monitors Deemed 'Unnecessary'

BK1204045296 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] As many as 20,706 former detainees belonging to the G 30 S/PKI [30 September Movement of the Indonesian Communist Party] have been screened and will be allowed to vote in the 1997 general election. This means that a total of 1,178,526 former detainees will be allowed to vote in the general election. The number of people ineligible to vote in the upcoming general election will therefore be lower than in previous general elections.

Susilo Sudarman, coordinating minister for politics and security, disclosed this during a briefing on the results of a coordinating meeting on politics and security in Jakarta yesterday. The coordinating minister was accompanied by Lieutenant General Mutoyib, head of the State Intelligence Coordinating Agency, and Sutoyo M.K., director general for sociopolitical affairs of the Department of Home Affairs.

During the coordinating meeting on politics and security, the government considered unnecessary the existence of election monitoring watchdogs such as the Independent Election Monitoring Committee and the Objective Election Monitoring Team. The government said the official Election Monitoring Committee could monitor the implementation of the general election adequately.

Laos

Laos: Third Joint MIA Search Operations Carried Out

BK1104130096 Vientiane KPL in English 0929 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vientiane, April 11 (KPL) — Adhering to the Lao government's humanitarian policy and responding to the request of the US government as well as the families of those missing in action during the war in Laos, the joint Lao-American technical team has carried out surveys and excavation at plane crash sites in central provinces of Laos during the period between March 3 and April 5, 1996, PASASON newspaper reports quoting the Press Department of the Foreign Ministry here as saying.

During this operation, the joint technical team surveyed 10 out of the 19 cases in Boualapha District in Khammouane Province, Vilaboun, Phin, and Sepon districts in Savannakhet Province. The team excavated three cases, of which two in Boualapha District, and one in Nong District, Savannakhet Province. Through the operation, some remains and object of evidence were found and will be sent to USA for analysis.

This operation was the third in the 1995-96 joint cooperation plan, but the 48th since the beginning of the MIA joint operation which has received good cooperation from the general public and administrative committees.

Laos: Article Sees Shift To Focus on Rural Areas

BK1204073096 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Apr 96 p A6

[Article by Andrew Nette: "Vientiane Feels Pull of the Countryside"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] is moving to focus its development efforts on the country's rural areas, the government's main base of support, which have so far seen little of the benefits of free market reform.

This shift became clear during the party's sixth congress in Vientiane in late March. In his political report to the meeting, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon stressed the "strategic importance" of developing the rural areas, home to about 80 per cent of Laos' population.

Bringing renovation to the rural areas "is to be the focus in the next five years," commented the official

English language VIENTIANE TIMES in its post-congress issue, "particularly in mountainous areas and former revolutionary strongholds."

Reflecting this trend, seven members of the new nine-person politburo elected by the congress are from provinces such as Houa Phan, Attapeu and Xieng Khouang.

Although these poor and remote areas' representation on this key political body many appear out of all proportion to their real economic and political power, it is evidence of what one foreign observer in Vientiane called the party's desire "to return to the heart of the revolution."

Located in the north eastern part of Laos, it was from the caves of Houa Phan the Laos' revolutionary leader Kaysone Phomvihan and other important Pathet Lao figures directed the war against the US-sponsored Royalist regime. Attapeu and Xieng Khouang were other important bases of support for the insurgents during the decades-long civil war.

Although these provinces bore the brunt of the conflict, including the devastating impact of US carpet bombing during the late 1960s and early 1970s, they are now among the country's poorest areas, and visitors report increasing discontent among their populations.

"Marxism never really took hold in the urban areas, and even less in the countryside," said one aid worker with long experience in Laos.

"Most of the rural people believed in the revolution, something they fought for which would bring them benefits. Now it is 20 years later and they realise that for them nothing has changed. There is a lot of disillusionment.

"Laos may have jettisoned any commitment it once held to socialism, but there is a growing recognition in party circles that they have to have the support from these areas," commented the observer.

Leaders from the country's rural areas were also promoted within the party's central committee, at the expense of more liberal minded, urban-based technocrats. The governor of Houa Phan, Somphan Phengkhammi, went from 37 to 21 in the new 49-member body, and the governors from rural provinces such as Sekong, Bokeo and Khammouane were moved in.

While the revamped line-up may not satisfy foreign businessmen, who are now forecasting a more cautious approach towards investment, most analysts agree that the Lao government's push to include the rural areas in the development process is vital to insuring the regime's long term stability.

The issue is particularly important given the nation's large ethnic minority population. According to government estimates, there are approximately 47 different ethnic groups in Laos.

These are classified into three broad groups, of which the dominant are the Lao Loum, Tai-speaking Buddhists, who make up around half the population and mainly live in the lowlands along the Mekong River.

The Lao Theung are upland, animistic tribes mostly of Mon-Khmer origin. The Lao Soung or Hmong are highlanders. Both are rural based, have their own distinct language and culture, and a long history of resistance against successive central governments.

Under economic reforms known as the New Economic Mechanism, formally adopted at the LPRP's congress in 1991, the general approach to development has been dominated by macroeconomic thinking which has resulted in growth along the Mekong valley, traditionally the most affluent area of the country.

Nearly all the joint ventures which have arisen from the influx of foreign capital are with members of the urban Lao Loum elite. Foreign aid has similarly been concentrated in urban areas.

A small class of entrepreneurs, many of them with links to the party establishment, have begun to attain a level of affluence reminiscent of Vientiane before 1975. Displays of wealth and Royal connections once frowned on are once again fashionable.

In contrast, a recent internal report by the World Bank estimated 53 per cent of the country's rural population live in poverty, compared to 21 per cent in the urban areas. Most rural people live without access to even the most basic social services, and child and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in Asia.

There are concerns the rural people, especially minorities, are losing out in the competition for land and resources that has been generated by a number of large scale infrastructure and agri-business projects.

The situation is not only a development problem, but a serious threat to the party's moral authority, particularly its claims to rule on behalf of a united "multi-ethnic" nation. During the congress, Khamtai labelled ethnic affairs a "life and death" matter as the country's unity and strength are concerned.

The present government came to power at the head of a guerrilla army whose ranks were 60 per cent ethnic minority. Although this war record was translated into a heavy representation of minority cadres in the post-revolutionary government according to report last year by the Netherlands Institute of Asian Studies, "A process of long term ethnic marginalization seems to be occurring."

Ethnic minority representatives have lost ground in both the central and provincial administrations, the report said, often to technocrats from the old regime and their children educated in the Eastern bloc and increasingly the West.

The most visible manifestation of the strains created by this situation occurred last July, when a unit of Hmong troops stationed north of Lung Prabang mutinied when their commander was forced into retirement.

Diplomatic sources in Vientiane claimed that at least five soldiers were killed in the resulting clash. A curfew was placed on the area, and troops loyal to the central government were called to restore order.

There have also been unconfirmed reports that many of the ongoing attacks by so-called Hmong insurgents have in reality been the result of clashes over the distribution of resources, such as timber, and resistance to the government's attempts to relocate ethnic minority communities from mountainous areas.

Increasing disillusionment in rural areas has been discussed at several high level party meetings, and in 1993 the party established a National Committee For Rural Development, headed by Oudom Khatthi-gna, who was among those elevated into the politburo at the recent congress.

The government has also enlisted the help of the military, especially in minority areas. The army is now engaged in activities ranging from building schools and hospitals to holding cultural activities.

Among the additional measures outlined at the congress were plans for a rural electricity network, improvements to health and education, and greater emphasis on the building of rural access roads from remote villages to markets.

Although the government is pushing ahead with plans to relocate 800,000 ethic minorities into lowland areas, to eliminate slash and burn agriculture and opium farming, the meeting stressed the need for "practical measures which are sensitive to the special characteristics of the localities."

There are also signs the party is pushing for greater ethnic minority participation in the government. Several minority officials were promoted at the sixth congress, the most senior of them being interior Minister Asang Laoli, an ethnic Hmong, who was brought into he Politburo.

Lao sources claim that Laoli was instrumental in negotiating the ceasefire with disgruntled ethnic minority troops in Luang Prabang. He plays a key role in connecting the regime in Vientiane to the Hmong population, said one.

Philippines

Philippines: Order on Tarriff Rates for Farm Products Issued

BK1204073496 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 12 Apr 96

[Report by Wilfredo G. Reyes — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Government has finally completely fulfilled tariffication requirements for agricultural items by issuing Executive Order [EO] No. 313 to complement the recent lifting of quantitative restrictions under Republic Act [RA] No. 8179.

President Ramos had earlier vowed to issue this directive that provides for World Trade Organization (WTO)-set tariff rates on agricultural products, except for rice.

The Senate's ratification of the final agreement of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (UR-GATT) in December 1994 had bound the country, among other things, to convert all existing quotas and other quantitative restrictions on agricultural products into tariffs.

Five specific tariff-related commitments under this agreement were made:

— Reduce tariff rates on lines over a period of 10 years to an average of 26% from an original average of 40%;

— Replace quantitative restrictions with higher tariffs as a means of protection for agricultural products, except rice, which will remain protected with this original restriction;

— Reduce high tariff rates, which can reach even 100% for such "sensitive" products as corn, livestock and poultry, to levels that are still 10 percentage points higher than current average tariff rates over 10 years;

— Allow importation of agricultural items in volumes equivalent to 3% of previous year's domestic consumption at lower tariff rates, which, however, will be raised to 5% by the year 2004 for agricultural products quantitative restrictions of which have been replaced by higher tariffs; and

— Binding rates on 3,544 tariff lines at ceiling rates equivalent to 10 percentage points above the rates supposed to have been applied last year. This particular commitment had enabled the country to retain its existing tariffs on 63% of total tariff lines.

The same mechanism allows the Philippines to increase tariffs further in case of import surges.

Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had joined Senate President Protempore Leticia Shahani in expressing relief that the country has narrowly escaped WTO sanctions by beating the 30 March deadline for installing all WTO requirements, including the lifting of quantitative restrictions and tariffication of agricultural items, and the shift in customs valuation from Home Consumption Value to Export Value and, eventually, to Transaction Value.

While Malacanang [presidential palace] had issued EO 313 only recently, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Luis Liwanag said RA 8179 had fulfilled WTO tariffication requirement and rendered EO 313 a mere formality.

But Ms. Shahani qualified that fulfillment of all WTO requirements "will not automatically make agriculture a winner" without installation of such safety nets as farm-to-market roads, post-harvest facilities, improved access to credit, and increased policy and budgetary support for research and training.

Philippines: Military Rightists Suspected in Zamboanga Bombing

BK1204030996 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 2230 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Five people have been seriously injured in the latest bombing in Zamboanga City. The victims have been identified as Kansa Talasa, a Muslim religious leader, and his wife and three grandchildren. According to police investigators, an unidentified terrorist hurled a bomb into Talasa's house. The motives for the bombing remain uncertain, but it is suspected that rightist members of the military are behind the bombings with the aim of derailing the peace talks in Mindanao.

Thailand

Thailand: Official Views U.S. Share of UN Debt

BK1204052596 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 12 Apr 96 p 4

[Article by Anuson Chinwanno, an official in the Foreign Ministry's Department of International Organizations: "Solution to UN Funds Crisis Rests With the United States"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Faced with much more involvement in increasingly expensive peacekeeping operations around the world and a large backlog of arrears by member states, the United Nations is facing its worst financial crisis in 50 years.

The world body owes its member states over US$1 billion for the cost of troops and equipment they have contributed to peacekeeping operations, and its creditors some $300 million for the purchase of goods and services.

Member states owe the UN well over $2 billion in unpaid assessed contributions, with the United States being the largest debtor, owing approximately $1.2 billion.

The crisis has assumed political urgency. When world leaders gathered in New York in October 1995 to commemorate the UN's Golden Anniversary, they expressed concern over the financial crisis and called for a speedy solution. The issue was also raised during the Asia-Europe Meeting in Bangkok last month.

But this is not new, the UN has had financial difficulties for many years as a result of member states' late payment of contributions.

The situation however has deteriorated over the past 3-4 years as the UN's peacekeeping role has greatly expanded since the end of the Cold War. And the annual cost of peacekeeping operations has jumped from $600 million in 1990 to $3.3 billion in 1995.

In a move to solve the crisis, the General Assembly in 1994 set up a high-level working group to work out concrete measures. The working group has met regularly since the beginning of 1995 but so far has failed to come up with a proposal.

This is largely due to differences of opinions and basic interest between developed and developing countries.

Developing countries see the crisis as the direct result of the failure of member states — particularly the US — failing to pay their dues, which they point out is a default on a treaty obligation.

Developed countries, while acknowledging that developing countries have a valid argument, tend to emphasise the need to revise the scale of assessments, which establishes the rate of contributions for each member state. They argue that the current scale does not reflect the changes in economic conditions in member countries, so that some, like the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, have to pay more than they can afford.

But in the case of the US, the argument about bad economic conditions certainly does not apply. Furthermore, there is little justification in the suggestion that the US assessment rate should be lowered from the current rate of 25 percent to 20 percent.

This is because the capacity of each member state to pay derives from the size of its economy as measured by national income in proportion to world income. The current top rate for the US is already below the US share of world income, which is estimated at 28 percent.

The issue is clearly not an economic but a political one. The fixing of the "ceiling" rate, whether at 25 percent or 20 percent or even 15 percent, is a political decision that has little to do with economic factors.

The US debt to the UN stems not from economic inability to pay but from a political decision by Congress to withhold payment, which causes disquiet among US allies. Malcolm Rifkind, the British foreign secretary, has criticised the US for having "representation without taxation" in contrary to the principle of "no taxation without representation" expounded by its founding fathers.

Moreover, the US debt has become a source of acute embarrassment for some US citizens. The United Nations Association of the USA (UNAUSA) has launched a campaign asking the American people to send their "share" of US contributions to the UN's regular budget. (The US share of the UN's regular budget is about $315 million a year, the equivalent of $1.30 per American citizen).

In January, John C. Whitehead, the chairman of UNA-USA, sent a letter to Senator Robert Dole criticising Congress for refusing to pay the US share. He said the US refusal to pay was "driving" the UN to "the brink of collapse" and "graphically demonstrates the bankruptcy of congressional isolationism".

In response to these criticisms, the Clinton administration has sought to demonstrate its commitment to the UN by including in the president's 1997 budget submission to Congress a five-year arrears payment plan with funds being requested in 1997 and advance appropriation being sought for the next four years.

Actual payment however is conditional on the UN undergoing more reforms, reducing the budget and cutting "unnecessary staff". While most would agree that the UN urgently needs to reform its structure as well as its operating style, the reform process should not be determined predominantly by financial considerations. Moreover, the US has an obligation to pay arrears to the UN under Article 17 of the UN Charter.

Once the US has done this, there is no doubt that the financial situation of the UN will improve. But because the UN currently is financed solely by contributions from member states, there is no guarantee that a similar crisis will not recur.

Hence a number of suggestions have been put forward for alternative funding sources. UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has suggested that the secretary-general be authorised to borrow from the World Bank and the IMF.

Former Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans has suggested levies on foreign exchange transactions and international passenger flights. He said the UN could earn $3 billion if a levy of just 0.001 percent were put on the $300,000 billion worth of foreign exchange transactions that now occur every year. The UN could earn another $3 billion by levying $10 on passengers on every international flight, or the cost of nearly a whole year's UN peacekeeping operations.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed suggested a tax on the trade in weapons of war based on the principle that "he who profits from the tools of war must contribute to the maintenance of peace".

There is little hope that these controversial proposals will be accepted by the majority of UN member states. The UN's future therefore remains dependent largely on the US, the major contributor, fulfilling its charter obligation. The Clinton administration has demonstrated its willingness to settle this issue. It is now up to Congress to show similar political will.

In this connection, the outcome of the presidential and congressional elections later this year will be important. Then we will see if the United Nations will be allowed to go under by its principal founder.

Thai Editorial Urges Extradition of 'Scandalous' Monk From U.S.

BK1104131996 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 11 Apr 96 p 2

[Editorial: "We Must Get Yantra Back"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Police Department report says that Winai La-ongsuwan, formerly Phra Yantra, has been arrested by U.S. police in San Diego, California, for giving false information in order to renew his expired visa. The report has not yet been confirmed by the Thai consul in Californi; therefore, we still cannot completely believe it.

As we may recall, the Ecclesiastical Council pressured the former Phra Yantra to leave the monkhood, following a series of scandals involving his suspicious and scandalous conduct, which is forbidden for monks, including his having sexual relations with women. The incidents took place in Thailand and in foreign countries. The scandal has badly tainted the Buddhist religion. The former Phra Yantra, who was very popular among Buddhist believers before the scandal broke out, denied all accusations, but there was hard evidence and witnesses. One woman claimed he was the father of her daughter, but he refused to take the scientific DNA test, which could have proved whether or not it was true.

He was legally acquitted from several charges, however, the former Yantra still has to stand trial for defaming His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch. He fled to the United States while the case was under investigation. Now he is being charged by U.S. police of lying in order to get his visa renewed. It was not clear exactly what charges were being made against the monk this time.

As the former Phra Yantra has been arrested in the United States, this is a good chance for Thailand to seek his return. Once the trial in the United States is over, the U.S. authorities should send him back under the extradition agreement between the two countries, so that he can stand trial to clear up other issues in Thailand.

We do not know how long the trial against Phra Yantra will take in the United States, but we would like to stress one point here. Once the case is over, U.S. authorities should send him back to Thailand so that he can face other charges and be penalized for what he has done. According to reports, the former Phra Yantra conducted himself as an ordinary Buddhist monk while in the United States, except he opted for another color, not yellow, for his robes. This has caused uneasiness in Buddhist followers and in the Thai community in the United States, who feared his conduct might create misunderstandings about Buddhism among foreigners.

We think that, as the Thai and U.S. police are already cooperating in other crimes, such as the suppression of narcotics, Thailand should be able to seek the extradition of Winai La-ongsuwan, formerly known as Phra Yantra, so that he can stand trial on charges in Thailand. This will set a precedent for others who are using religion as front to pursue personal gains, through cheating and deception at the expense of others. Such a person must be tried so that no one else dares follow suit.

Thailand: Japanese Red Army Suspect Denies Counterfeiting Charges

BK1204031996 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Apr 96 p A2

[Report by Sa-nguan Khumrungrot]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chon Buri — The suspected Japanese Red Army member who was arrested in Cambodia on forgery charges and sent here denied before a Thai court yesterday that he was involved with the circulation of fake US currency in Southeast Asia.

Yoshimi Tanaka, who told the court he was a North Korean named Kim Il-su, also denied being involved in fraud.

The suspect claimed he was involved in the legitimate business of vehicle tyre import-exports in Phnom Penh and had been involved in no crime.

The 47-year-old suspect is wanted in Japan for his alleged involvement with eight others in the 1970 hijacking of a Japanese aircraft to North Korea.

Tanaka was stopped on March 24 at the Cambodian-Vietnamese border while riding in a North Korean embassy vehicle.

He and three North Korean embassy staff members were ordered to return to Phnom Penh, where Tanaka, who was carrying a North Korean diplomatic passport and a large amount of US currency, was detained. He was handed over to Thailand on March 26 to face forgery charges.

After Tanaka's denial of all charges, the Chon Buri court set his next hearing for May 24, dimming Japan's hopes for early extradition. Tokyo initially expected that the suspect would be sent home immediately after the Songkran [traditional new year] holidays from April 13 to 15.

The court ordered Tanaka to appoint a defence lawyer. Tanaka said after the hearing that his arrest and charges are part of an American "conspiracy" and he will fight to the end to prove his innocence.

Police have charged Tanaka with collaborating with eight Thais and foreigners in distributing 90 fake US$100 bills in early January in Phatthaya.

Tanaka denied the charges and claimed that this was his first visit to Thailand.

He insisted he was innocent and did not know why he was arrested and sent here.

He claimed to be a 44-year-old North Korean named Kim Il-su and to have a North Korean wife, Li Yong-hi, and three daughters who are now living in North Korea. But the suspect could not provide a passport to prove his claim, saying he had forgotten the document at his embassy in Phnom Penh. He claimed to have been engaged in the import-export business in Cambodia with a friend for about a year.

The alleged involvement of three embassy diplomats in Phnom Penh in abetting Tanaka prompted Pyongyang to recall its ambassador to Cambodia, Song Ho-kyong, and the three mission officials.

Song, a former deputy foreign minister, will be replaced by Kim Yong-sop, former special envoy of the late North Korean president Kim Il-song, who was a close personal friend of Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk.

Diplomats in Bangkok and Phnom Penh could not confirm the identities of the three North Korean diplomats, but said the Cambodian government plans to deport them.

Tanaka's case and a recent incident in which one of King Sihanouk's North Korean bodyguards accidently injured Cambodia's Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen have caused embarrassment between Phnom Penh and Pyonyang, which have had diplomatic relations for 32 years.

Diplomats said the two incidents have boosted South Korea's chances of officially establishing diplomatic ties with Phnom Penh. Seoul has tried hard for the past several years to make a diplomatic entry into Cambodia, the only Indochinese country with which it has no official relations, nor an embassy.

Thai Deputy Premier Meets DPRK Official; Aid Handed Over

BK1204045096 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] North Korea has been satisfied with developing relations and bilateral friendly ties with Thailand and hopes to see intensified exchanges at all levels. Deputy Prime Minister Thaksin Chinnawat met Director of Foreign Relations of the Labor Party of North Korea Hyon Chun-kuk, who is on visit to Thailand. They agreed that the two countries can further develop close ties despite their different systems of government and culture.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meanwhile, reported that the Thai Government's cash donation of $20,000, or 500,000 baht, for flood victims in North Korea had been recently handed over to the North Korean ambassador by Director General of the Department of East Asian Affairs Suwit Simasakun.

Thai Army Commander Comments on Arms Procurement Plans

BK1204050796 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 Apr 96 p A3

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The armed forces will not review their arms acquisition projects, Army Commander-in-Chief Pramon Phalasin said yesterday.

However, the decision on whether or not to approve the requested purchases rests with the government, Gen. Pramon acknowledged.

And while he was in favour of acquiring weapons through counter-trade, a method proposed by Defence Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Pramon noted it was unlikely this would be acceptable to the United States, the Kingdom's biggest arms supplier, as it already has a trade deficit with Thailand.

The Army chief said military leaders could explain to anyone who cared to listen just why arms purchases were not a major cause of the country's burgeoning current account deficit.

"We should act in the interests of the country. I have been the Army commander for six months and we have not yet bought any weapons. We can give details to anyone who has doubts about arms purchases," Pramon said.

Government spokesman Somsak Pritsananathakun has said Prime Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha wants the armed forces to set priorities on their weaponry wish-list so headway can be made in controlling and reducing the current account deficit, the difference between foreign currency earnings and imports.

Chawalit insisted yesterday the prime minister and other politicians did not intervene in the military's affairs and claimed Banhan always consulted him before making a decision concerning the armed forces.

The defence minister reiterated that the military needs a defence satellite system, citing its importance to the country. "I think everyone has a long vision. Military satellites are necessary," he said.

Chawalit said he remains convinced the government will approve the satellite project and added the military will produce a white paper to explain the issue to the people.

The satellite project carries an estimated price tag of Bt [baht] 28 billion.

Vietnam

SRV: Meeting of U.S., Vietnamese War Veterans Reported

BK1104124296 Hanoi VNA in English 0854 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 11 — The general secretary of the Vietnam War Veteran Association (VWVA) Major Gen. Le Thanh has received a group from the US Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA) led by VVA National Secretary Thomas Corey, now on a working visit to Vietnam.

Speaking at the reception in Hanoi, Mr Corey said that the VVA's 7th Vietnam visit was aimed at carrying out the VVA's programme to help Vietnam conduct searches for people missing in action. The programme also involves the participation of other US veteran organisations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US and the Disabled American Veterans.

He handed over to Mr Le Thanh a number of documents relating to Vietnamese fallen combatants and expressed his desire for VWVA's continued cooperation on the MIA issue and the plan to increase humanitarian activities.

VWVA General Secretary Le Thanh welcomed the VVA's programme and thanked the latter for its goodwill in providing new information on Vietnamese reported missing. He also briefed the VVA on information relating to 14 US servicemen killed in action provided to the Vietnam MIA Office by the VWVA recently.

The VWVA chief affirmed that his association would continue cooperating with the US side and the VVA in searching for us servicemen on a humanitarian basis and with mutual understanding. He wished the VVA to increase its practical contributions to settling the consequences of Agent Orange among Vietnamese veterans and help build the Vietnam friendship village in Hanoi.

SRV: Ukraine's Kuchma Interviewed on Ties, Cooperation

BK1104131596 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The high-ranking Ukrainian delegation led by President Kuchma has concluded its official visit to Vietnam. During their stay in Vietnam, President Kuchma and Minister of External Commercial and Economic Relations Osyka gave a short interview to our radio reporter on cooperation between Vietnam and Ukraine. Here are excerpts from the interview.

[Begin Kuchma recording in Ukrainian fading into English translation] President Kuchma said he was pleased at the achievements obtained by the Vietnamese people in economic renovation. Both Vietnam and Ukraine were on the road to market economic development, and in its first stage Vietnam has obtained great results. The inflation rate last year in Vietnam was 12 percent, the budget deficit was about five percent, and gold and hard currency reserve has increased. Foreign investment in Vietnam increased rapidly and [word indistinct] Vietnam has a dynamic economy. Ukraine wanted to be Vietnam's partner. [End recording]

On the results of cooperation between Vietnam and Ukraine, Mr. Osyka, minister of external commercial and economic relations said:

[Begin Osyka recording in Ukrainian and fading into English translation] Before 1991, among the total turnover of Vietnam, the former Soviet Union's ratio accounted for between 70-80 percent. Two-way trade turnover between Vietnam and Ukraine is about $70 million and this is too little. To develop and promote trade between the two countries, the two sides have to exchange more new items such as tin, rubber, and foodstuffs. [End recording]

Mr. Osyka said the foreign stock market of Ukraine was operating well, therefore Vietnamese businessmen could sell their goods to Ukraine for Ukrainian currency and use it to buy other foreign currencies from the Ukrainian stock market. The two sides should actively cooperate with each other in industry with corporations should enjoy trade priority [sentence as heard]. The Vietnamese Government was trying to develop the energy industry with an increase of 40,000 kilowatt. Ukraine was bidding for the construction and upgrading of Vietnam's energy projects. This represented great potential of cooperation between the two countries. According to Mr. Osyka, the two countries could cooperate in ship building, transport, and communications. Ukraine was setting up a Vietnam-Ukraine Commercial House and it would be inaugurated on the occasion of the second session of the Vietnam- Ukraine Intergovernmental Commission on Economic, Commercial, Scientific, and Technological Cooperation.

SRV: British State Minister's Activities Reviewed

BK1104130396 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As we broadcast earlier, British State Minister Sir J. Hanley visited Vietnam at the invitation of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry. During his stay in Vietnam, he held talks with high-ranking Vietnamese officials. Here is a report on his activities in Vietnam.

In his talks with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh, Sir J. Hanley emphasized the British Government's commitment to increase its aid to Vietnam as a new EU member [as heard], and its increasing confidence in the effective investment in Vietnam by British businessmen. He also expressed the aspiration of the British Government and businessmen for the early signing of the investment encouragement and protection agreement to promote British investment. He also talked about a plan on organizing a trade seminar with Vietnam.

Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh said: The Vietnamese Government and businessmen want to expand cooperation between the two countries according to the potential of each country. In the talks, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien affirmed that Vietnam would continue its independent, sovereign, and diversified external policy. Vietnam wanted further strengthening of multifaceted relations between Vietnam and Britain as well as between Vietnam and the European Union.

The British state minister said his country has great interest in Southeast Asia and it wanted to strengthen relations with Vietnam and ASEAN members which play an important political and economic role in the region. British businessmen are interested in the Vietnamese market and the British Government encourages them to increase their investment in Vietnam in the coming years. Britain wants to enlarge development projects in Vietnam. Its supports Vietnam's joining the world trade organization and its economic-commercial ties with the European Union.

Sir J. Hanley told Vietnamese reporters that Britain was considering investment in infrastructure construction in Vietnam. Britain planed to grant preferential loan to Vietnam to build a sea-coast telecommunication system worth $15 million. He said his country always supports the EU-Vietnam relations and calls for EU imports of textile and garment from Vietnam.

The visit to Vietnam by Sir J. Hanley would promote cooperation between Britain and Vietnam.

SRV Officials Discuss Mutual Ties With PRC Official

BK1104123996 Hanoi VNA in English 0832 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 11 — China places great importance in developing relations with other Asian countries, particularly with Vietnam.

The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress, Mr Yang Zhenya, said this in Hanoi yesterday when meeting with a Vietnamese delegation from the External Relations Commission of the National Assembly led by its vice-chairman Tran Van Phac.

The two sides discussed socio-economic problems and economic development in both countries.

Mr Yang Zhenya was pleased with the development of cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

He emphasised that Vietnam and China had their own ways to build socialism. But both made industrialisation and modernisation as their main planks for economic reform, he added.

Stable relations between Vietnam and China would not only benefit both countries, but also contribute to regional stability.

Tran Van Phac congratulated China on its achievements in economic reform and ensuring social stability.

He confirmed Vietnam would continue with a self-controlled foreign policy of developing multilateral relations.

He said it was Vietnam's wish to promote friendship and co-operative relations with the People's Republic of China.

SRV: Spokesperson Rejects PRC's Reaction to Oil Exploration

BK1204111796 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A spokesperson for the Vietnamese foreign ministry affirmed that the oil lots 133 and 134 signed by Petro Vietnam and Conoco Vietnam Exploration and Production B.G. of the United States are partly under the sovereignty of Vietnam.

Speaking in Hanoi on Friday on China's reaction to the signing of this contract, the spokesperson said that both lots 133 and 134 lie in the continental shelf of Vietnam and that Vietnam has the right to carry out by its own or cooperate with a foreign country on oil exploration and exploitation in the area. No one can intervene and obstruct it.

SRV Deputy Premier, DPRK Official Discuss Rice Export

BK1104123496 Hanoi VNA in English 0820 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 11 — Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai received here yesterday a visiting delegation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

During the reception, Mr. Khai expressed Vietnam's sympathy for the sufferings of the Korean people from successive natural disasters. Mr. Khai said that the Korean people would certainly tide over this difficult period and continue to advance under the guidance of their leader Kim Chong-il.

Mr. Khai told Yi Song-dae, head of the delegation and chairman of the DPRK Commission for External Economic Relations, that Vietnam highly appreciated the role of the late President Kim Il-song in the cause of Korean national liberation and reconstrution. The Korean people have made many important achievements under the leadership of the late president, he said.

In connection with the DPRK's proposal to import rice from Vietnam, the deputy prime minister said Vietnam could trade in rice but the trade was being undertaken by the different food companies and the government could subsidise them for a limited period only. Any transaction between the two countries, therefore, should be based on detailed discussions about modes of payment, Mr. Khai added.

He promised to forward the proposal to the prime minister for further consideration.

The Korean delegation will hold talks with the Ministry of Commerce during its stay here.

SRV: 'Essay' Rejects Human Rights Accusations

BK1104145096 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Essay by Nguyen Loc]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every person in Vietnam understands the value of human life. In the past, and as recently as last year, human rights within the domains of politics, economics, social, and culture have been widely and unanimously respected and guaranteed by the Vietnamese Government. The achievements of the renovation undertaking and economic development in the past years have also heightened the quality of human rights. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] during the implementation of the renovation policy and economic development, the process to perfect a law-governed state apparatus is moving quickly. That law-governed state is being established within the principles of 'for the people, by the people, and of the people.' Based on these principles, the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has passed the 1992 Constitution, which clearly recognizes human rights. Article 50 of the constitution stipulates that in the SRV, human rights in politics, civil, economics, culture, and social aspects are respected, and are reflected in citizen's rights determined by the constitution and the laws. The stipulation in the constitution is materialized through the codes of law of criminal, civil, labor, and economic, as well as through socioeconomic policies.

In the international arena, Vietnam is among the signatories of many international legal documents, such as the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1966 conventions of Civil and Political Rights and Social and Economic Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Prohibition of Discrimination Towards Women, and so forth. These total eight conventions. Regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Vietnam is the first Asian nation, and second in the world to sign it. Based on contemporary perception, which believes that the combination of three documents: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention of Social and Economic Rights, constitute the international code of law on human rights, Vietnam has fully complied with this code of law.

The aforementioned facts show that Vietnam has positively accepted all human rights values, and has combined these values with Vietnam's own economic, cultural, and historical characteristics.

The Vietnamese people, who have gone from being slaves in their country to being masters, should have the right to build a happy and prosperous life for themselves. They have endured a prolonged and vigorous revolution under the CPV's leadership. The revolution brought with it many noble and sacred human right values. President Ho Chi Minh once said: I have only one desire, and it is my ultimate desire. I would like the country to be independent, the people to be free, and for everybody to have food, clothing, and an education. Today the CPV is pursuing the goals of prosperous people, a strong country, and an equitable and advanced society. The desire of President Ho Chi Minh and the goals of the CPV have obviously been reflected by the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Man's highest aspiration is a world in which humans are free from fear and want, and one in which they can enjoy freedom of belief and speech. This is guaranteed by the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There is no reason whatsoever, after studying the above facts, to assert that the human rights situation in Vietnam in 1995 is a black one.

On the contrary, with achievements in economic developments, which have in turn have improved the quality and quantity of economic, social, and cultural rights, and with legal freedom and democratic rights, the Vietnamese Government indeed treasures its human rights.

In an interview with Radio France Internationale on the evening of 7 April, Mr. Vo Van Ai referred to certain events, which he said were violations of the freedom of democracy and religion. These events include the monks who were creating disturbances in Hue City in 1993, the case of Do Trung Hieu, and others. He said Vietnam did not practice political or civil freedom. The truth is that those cases were tried openly, and the appropriate punishment had been meted out in accordance with the law. No unjustified arrests or imprisonments occurred. One principle, which is protected by the constitution, is that no one can be found guilty or punished until a valid sentence has been passed by a court of law. Article 72 of the SRV Constitution clearly outlines this point. Punishment to law offenders is always be based on those stipulated by law for each offense.

Human rights is a collection of rights and groups of rights, which interact though dialectical relations. They are the rights of the individual, as well as those of the people and community, the rights on politics, civil, social, and economics. Rights of the individual include individual responsibilities to society. The practice and enhancement of human rights requires simultaneous actions for all the above rights. On the other hand, human rights also depend on the historical, cultural, and economic conditions of each country and region. The demanding voice of Mr. Vo Van Ai, who is in exile overseas, calling for Western-style political and democratic rights is totally baseless and unscientific. This is merely a coercive imposition of a duplication, which will not guarantee the development of human rights, but will create an anti- force hindering the development of human rights in Vietnam.

In the past, especially in recent years, Vietnam's achievements regarding human rights have been acknowledged by friends — regional and international. The Vietnamese Government has also shown goodwill by receiving and holding dialogue with countries and international organizations who wish to study the situation and exchange views regarding human rights. In this spirit, Vietnam has received delegations from Amnesty International, the Asia Human Rights Watch group, the human rights coordinator from the German Foreign Ministry, the chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission's imprisonment working group, and most recently, a delegation from the Australian Parliament. Through these associations, mutual understanding and respect have strengthened.

In the current national construction and socioeconomic development for the prosperity and happiness of every individual, our Vietnamese compatriots who are living far away from the fatherland are looking toward the country and contributing in material and spiritual means. Mr. Vo Van Ai, however, and the so- called Vietnam Human Rights Protection Organization are conducting activities that run counter to the interests and the development of the Vietnamese people. These harmful actions are creating opportunities for people who are ill-intentioned towards Vietnam. They hinder the Vietnamese people as they make their way to prosperity, happiness, and a fair and civilized society.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, 2d Installment

BK1104115996 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Second installment of draft political report to be presented by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee to the upcoming Eighth National Party Congress; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] II. Deficiencies and weaknesses: Together with a precise evaluation of our achievements, we also need to recognize the following deficiencies and weaknesses:

1. Though our country is still poor, we have not resolutely practiced thrift in production and consumption, while accumulation within the economy remains too low. We remain one of the poorest countries in the world at present, with very low levels of economic development, productivity, and efficiency in production and business. The infrastructure is backward, while there is a huge and pressing demand for investment capital. A section of cadres and people are still wasteful in their spending, consume beyond their means, and fail to save for development investment capital. The state is still in need of an effective policy to mobilize capital sources within the people. In 1995, capital construction using domestic capital sources — capital depreciation included — equalled only 16.7 percent of GDP, of which the capital from the budget only took 4.2 percent of GDP, which is too low when compared with the demand for economic development and the requirement for the effective absorption of foreign capital sources. The use of manpower is still fragmented, ineffective, and not concentrated resolutely on urgent socioeconomic programs.

2. In the development of the multisectorial economy, the task of leading the building up of a new production relationship is still carried out indifferently and without coordination. Our efforts to disentangle structural and policy problems are still poor and inadequate and have not created a momentum for state business establishments to improve their efficiency and develop their leading role in the national economy. We have not paid enough attention to reviewing realities and working out timely measures to renovate the cooperative economy, with the result that there has been a total collapse of production cooperatives in some places, and in other

places production cooperatives are hindering production and development. We have not carried out timely reviews of experiences in helping the development of new cooperative economic organizations, and we have lacked policies to encourage the private economic sector to develop its potential. The management of this private economic sector is still unsatisfactory. Pilot projects for equitization among state enterprises are slow, while the management of joint ventures with foreigners shows deficiencies. At certain times and places, the intention has been expressed to practice widespread privatization of all state enterprises, while leadership for development of the cooperative economy has been neglected.

3. The market mechanism remains rudimentary, and the role of the state in the management of socioeconomic development is still weak. Our system of economic management is still in a process of transition, and the legal system, administrative mechanism, and polices are not yet well-coordinated and consistent so as to stimulate and guide economic development. The pace of renovation in financial, banking, pricing, planning, construction, design, land management, and administrative procedures is slow. State trading establishments still neglect various important areas, and have not sufficiently developed their leading role in the market. Management in the import-export field shows flaws and indications of negativity, creating unfavorable effects on production in certain circumstances. The earnings distribution policy contains many unreasonable provisions, and budget over-runs and the import surplus have both been huge. Inflation has not been tightly restrained.

State management of activities in science and technology, protection of natural resources and the ecological environment, education and training, culture, and literature and the arts have not yielded results that reflect the importance of these fields.

4. Many painful problems still beset various aspects of social life. Corruption, smuggling, and wasteful squandering of public property have yet to be checked. Serious negativity persists within the state and party apparatuses and people's organizations, especially in the fields of land and housing, capital construction, investment cooperation, taxation, import and export, and even in the activities of many law- enforcement bodies. Polarization of wealth has increased between the various regions, between urban and rural areas, and between different segments of the population. The people's living standards, especially those living in former revolutionary and resistance bases, and minority ethnic areas, have not improved. The quality of education and public health services in various regions is too low. Poor people cannot afford the costs of medical treatment or to keep their children in school. Social vices flourish, and social order and safety are not guaranteed.

5. The political system has many weaknesses. The competence and efficacy of the party leadership, the effectiveness of the state management and administration and the efficiency of the activities of people's organizations are not up to par with the requirements of the situation. The apparatuses of the party, state and people's organizations have been slow to reorganize, streamline, or improve in quality. There are still instances of officialdom and serious violations of the people's democratic rights. The tasks of staff selection, further training, transfer, rejuvenation, and preparation for cadre replacement are still indifferent and sluggish. The competence and quality of the contingent of cadres are not up to par with the demands of their duties. The fact that causes the most concern is that many cadres and party members are losing their revolutionary ideals and are becoming alienated from moral quality, thus causing the deterioration of combat ability in some party organizations at grassroots level.

III. General Evaluation:

Generally speaking, the planning and implementation of the renovation policy in past years have been basically correct and on the right socialist path, despite that during the implementation process there were grave and prolonged deficiencies and deviations, causing disorientation at certain levels and places.

Our country has just emerged from a vigorous period that was full of obstacles. In the most difficult and complicated circumstances, our people have always stood firmly and scored outstanding achievements in many aspects. It is reasonable to assert that the renovation undertaking over the past 10 years has reaped considerable results of very important significance. The duties determined by the Seventh National Party Congress for the period of 1991-95 have been basically fulfilled. Our country has come out of the socioeconomic crisis, but the achievements in some aspects have yet to be firmly consolidated.

The task set for the initial phase of the transition period, which is to prepare the premises for industrialization, has been mainly completed. Our country is moving into a new period, that of pressing ahead with the industrialization and modernization of the country. The path to socialism in our country has been more clearly defined.

SRV: Draft Party Political Report, Installment 3

BK1204050996 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Third installment of draft political report to be presented by the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee to the upcoming eighth national party congress; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] IV. Main Lessons

The aforementioned achievements have resulted from a process of research, renovation, and hard struggle initiated by our people over the years, especially since our party came up with the policy on partial renovation in late 1970 and then with the comprehensive renovation line introduced at the sixth party congress. Examples of this are: The fourth party Central Committee's sixth session resolution that introduced policies to encourage increased production; the fourth party Central Committee Secretariat's Directive No. 100 on the giving of contracts for end-products to groups of workers and individual workers in agricultural cooperatives; Decisions No. 25 and 26-CP of the prime minister on balancing resources and a three-part plan [not further specified]; the assertion made by the fifth party congress while redetermining priorities in economic development that agriculture is the foremost front; the fifth party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution of June 1985 on prices, wages, and monetary issues; and the inferences of the fifth party Central Committee's Political Bureau in August 1986 on a number of issues related to economic concepts.

The initial experiences obtained in the aforementioned partial renovation were the premises that shaped the comprehensive renovation line at the sixth party congress. As that line correctly meets the requirements dictated by the actual situation and the aspirations of the people, it has been promptly translated into life. Yet renovation is a revolutionary undertaking that is full of challenges. In our country, the difficulties encountered during the renovation process have been particularly acute. This is because the renovation process began at a time when our country was caught in a serious socioeconomic crisis, when the international situation was complex, and when our foreign relations were fraught with difficulties.

During the renovation process, especially at those important junctures, our party was able to come up with many important national policies. Examples of these are the timely inferences reached at the sixth party Central Committee's sixth plenum on stepping up renovation and affirming the five principles of the renovation process; the resolute rejection by the sixth party Central Committee's sixth, seventh, and eighth plenums of the initial indications of political pluralism appearing in the party; the party Central Committee plenum resolutions that provided sharp and timely assessments of developments in the world situation in the late 1980's and early 1990's; the approval of the party's strategic platform and the revised party statute at the seventh party congress; the passage of the new Constitution in 1992; the reconfirmation by the midterm congress of party delegates of the task of further advancing national industrialization and modernization; and the party Central Committee's seventh plenum resolutions and other important resolutions and decisions of the party and state that have further substantiated, supplemented, and developed the renovation line in almost all areas of activity. With these correct decisions, our entire party and people have overcome difficulties and obstacles in attaining successes, as seen today.

In reviewing the renovation process over the past 10 years, we can draw the following main lessons:

1. Firmly maintaining the goal of national independence and socialism during the renovation process:

During the renovation process, we must always maintain the goal of national independence and socialism and firmly adhere to the two strategic tasks of building and defending the fatherland and being firm on Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh Thought and firmly defending the party leadership role. Facts show that the party's decision on comprehensive renovation at the sixth party congress was bold and clear-sighted. That decision took shape on the basis of developing the spirit of independence and sovereignty, stemmed from the reality of the country and from the people's creative experiences, and conformed to the people's wishes.

What is important is that from the very beginning we have clearly affirmed that renovation does not mean changing the socialist goal, but rather adopting a more correct view on socialism. To achieve this goal, we must adopt appropriate formats, steps, and measures; combine our persistence on revolutionary principles and strategy with flexibility and creativity in tactics; and be sensitive in acquiring new things.

Renovation must be carried out on the basis of preserving, succeeding, and developing the nation's valuable tradition and those revolutionary gains. Stern criticism of mistakes and shortcomings must be carried out along with acknowledging those things that are correct without negating our entire past and without becoming confused and losing our direction in such a way as to jump from one extreme to another.

2. Correctly managing relations between the renovation of the political system and renovation of the economy and closely combining economic renovation with political renovation from the very beginning:

Judging the overall situation, the party has started the renovation of political thinking in drawing up domestic and foreign policies and lines. Without that renovation, other renovations will not be possible. Yet our party was right when it first concentrated on implementing successfully the task of renovating the economy and overcoming socioeconomic crisis, thus creating the necessary material and spiritual preconditions for maintaining political stability, building the people's confidence, and creating favorable conditions for the renovation of other aspects of social life.

In renovating the organization and the operational structure of the political system, we have taken careful and steady steps. We have proceeded from resolving the things that are most urgent and must be dealt with immediately. This is because we have realized that this vital task is very complex and sensitive and that if any errors occur out of hastiness, we will have to pay a high cost or face an irretrievable situation.

The main goal of renovating the political system is to carry out socialist democracy satisfactorily and fully develop the people's right to mastery. An important lesson to be learned is that democracy must be accompanied through discipline and order. We must overcome violations of the people's right to mastery while at the same time guarding against the tendency toward extremist and radical democracy. We must categorically defeat all attempts to abuse democracy and human rights to create political disturbances against the regime or interfere in the internal affairs of our country. We must categorically disapprove of political pluralism and the multiparty system.

3. Renovating the economy:

Building a commodity-based and market-oriented multisectoral economy must be accompanied by efforts to strengthen the state management role along the socialist path. Economic growth must be accompanied by social progress and justice and by efforts to preserve and develop national cultural identity and protect the environment.

Studying and applying various economic management formats of capitalist countries and their mode of managing the market economy are aimed chiefly at making use of their positive aspects for the service of socialist construction without letting the country drift along the capitalist path.

The market-oriented economy has certain aspects that contrast with the nature of socialism; that is, the tendency of excessive discrimination between rich and poor that leads to social division and the tendency to worship money and trample upon ethics and human dignity for the sake of money. Embarking on the market economy, we must resolutely struggle to overcome these negative tendencies and minimize the costs to be paid.

To develop the work force, it is necessary to develop the potential of all economic components. Admittedly, in reality, exploitation still persists and certain degrees of discrimination between rich and poor in society still remain. We must always concern ourselves with protecting the interests of working people. We must encourage the amassing of wealth through legitimate means and fight the amassing of wealth through illegitimate means while attaching great importance to hunger eradication and poverty alleviation and the gradual promotion of social justice in the advance toward making every person and household well-off.

4. Expanding the universal great unity bloc and developing the strength of the entire nation:

Revolution is a cause of the people, for the people, and by the people. The people's suggestions, aspirations, and initiatives are the roots from which the party's renovation line has taken shape. It is thanks to the people's response to the renovation line and their brave struggle to overcome countless difficulties and ordeals that the renovation process has produced the good results seen today. To continue to move the renovation process toward greater achievements, we must expand in a more satisfactory fashion the universal great unity bloc that encompasses overseas Vietnamese compatriots and mobilize to the fullest the strength of the entire nation for the cause of a prosperous people, powerful nation, and equitable and civilized society.

5. Winning sympathy, support, and assistance from the world community and combining national strength with that of the era:

Our people's current renovation undertaking conforms to the era's trend of development and has won sympathy and support from the people of various countries. While striving to develop optimally the impetus of self-reliance and improvement and mobilize all sources of internal energy, we must resolutely exploit various new favorable conditions in foreign relations and extensively expand relations of friendship and cooperation with other countries for peace, independence, and development. Efforts must be made to create a favorable international environment and create positive factors to serve the renovation undertaking and national construction and defense. In expanding our international relations, we must stick to the basis of firmly protecting national independence and sovereignty and maintaining and developing our fine national identity and traditions. We must carry out multilateral and diversified diplomatic activities while honoring our traditional relations with foreign countries.

6. Firmly maintaining the party leadership role and considering party building a key task:

Our nation's revolutionary undertaking is led by the Communist Party of Vietnam, our ruling party. Victories, achievements, failures, and losses in the revolution are the party's responsibility. In the process of national renovation, the party should seriously review its mistakes, shortcomings, and weaknesses to renovate and revamp the party and enhance its combativeness and leadership capability. Various forces hostile to socialism and national independence always aim their attacks at the party and integrate their efforts to undermine the party's foundation, ideology, and organization. They normally resort to the tactics of distorting history; rejecting the revolutionary gains, sacrifices, and efforts of the communists; exaggerating the party's mistakes and shortcomings; and demanding bourgeois-style human rights and democracy, the depoliticization the state machinery, pluralism, and a multiparty system with the aim of eliminating the party leadership role. They use opportunists, political rivals, and ethical degenerates to sow divisions and weaken and undermine the party from within.

Clearly realizing the new requirements of revolution and the abovementioned schemes and tactics to oppose and undermine us, our party affirms that in the current stage, economic leadership is important work and party building is the key task. It is essential to attach importance to reviewing the party building task, and efforts must be made to consolidate the party politically and ideologically, strengthen cadre organization, firmly maintain democratic centralism, strengthen education and foster the working-class standpoint and concept and the pioneer characteristics of party members, struggle to overcome all negative and degenerate phenomena in the party, stop the tendency of degrading the party leadership role, and renovate the modes and enhance the party's standard quality and its effective leadership over the political system and society.

SRV: Draft Party Report Highlights Tasks for Defense, Security

BK1104155896 Hanoi VNA in English
1512 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Hanoi VNA April 11 - The draft political report of the Party Central Committee issued here yesterday for public comment devotes a significant part on the task of the nation in the areas of national defence, security and foreign relations.

The report to be submitted to the coming national party congress says:

The general task in national defence and security in the coming years is:

'To bring into full play the aggregate strength of the entire people and the whole political system, step by step strengthen the national defence and security potentials of the country, steadily build an all-people national defence and the all-people national defence disposition linked with the people's security disposition, raise the quality of the armed forces, firmly defend the independence, security, sovereignty and territory integrity of the country, defend the people, the party and the socialist regime to prevent and smash all designs and activities of 'peaceful evolution', rebellion and subversion, and to stand ready to cope with all other complicate eventualities, to effectively check and punish criminals of all types and effect an apparent change in social order and safety.

'To accomplish the tasks in national defence and security in the new situation, the following guidelines should be grasped fully:

- to closely combine the two strategic tasks of the Vietnamese revolution, namely building socialism and safeguarding the socialist homeland.

- to combine economic development with national defence and security.

- to tightly associate the task of national defence with that of security, they being the two closely intertwined aspects of the defence the socialist homeland in the new situation.

- to consider consolidation of national defence and security a primordial task of the entire people and the state. To promote the aggregate strength of the entire people and the political system with a view to increasing the national defence and security potentials, building a solid disposition of the all-people national defence in close coordination with the people's security disposition thoroughly grasp the idea of revolutionary offensive, activeness, initiativeness and readiness to foil all schemes and acts of sabotage.

Efforts must be made to enhance the party's leadership over the army and the security forces, and over national defence and security.

The report goes on: 'In the field of external relations, our task in the period to come consists in consolidating the peaceful environment and creating further favourable international conditions to step up economic development in service of national construction and defence, at the same time making active contributions to the common struggle of the world's people for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

'To continue with our foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, and diversification and multilateralisation of relations, in the spirit that Vietnam wishes to be a friend of all nations in the world community, striving for peace, independence and development. To effect regional and world integration, to increase multifaceted, bilateral and multilateral cooperation with all countries and international and regional organisations on the basis of equality, mutual benefit, respect for one another's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, and settlement of remaining problems and disputes through negotiations to ensure peace, stability and security for development.

'To take an active part in international forums and join in settling global problems to promote cooperation with the United Nations organisation, the Non-Aligned Movement, international financial and monetary institutions, the World Trade Organisation and other international organisations.

'To develop relations with communist and workers' parties, and other revolutionary, national independence, progressive forces to establish and broaden relations with other parties, including those in power, on the basis of equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

'To expand external people-to-people relations and relations with foreign non-governmental organisations to secure broad-based sympathy and support from other peoples, and contribute to promoting the trend for peace, cooperation and development.

SRV: Industrialization of Rural Areas Discussed

963e0011B Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese No. 16, Nov 95 pp 32-35

[Article by Duong Ba Phuong, MA in economics, National Center for the Social Sciences and Humanities: "Contributing Ideas on Industrializing the Rural Areas in the New Stage"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The issue of industrializing and modernizing the national economy in general and industrializing the rural areas in particular is being discussed from many different perspectives. Reality shows how the viewpoints and policies on industrializing the rural areas of our country in the present stage are being implemented, particularly with respect to specific solutions.

Our country's rural areas account for approximately 90 percent of the country's area, and about 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas. The striking feature of the rural economy-society today is that production formulas are still characterized mainly by small-farmer, self-sufficient production, and the level of commodity production is still very low, particularly in the highlands and in remote areas. Even in the Red River Delta rural areas, only about 10-20 percent of the households are engaged in commodity production, and 30-40 percent are engaged in self-sufficient production. [Footnote 1] [Based on the convention of the Rural Area and Agricultural Inspection Program (Premier's Decision 568/TTg dated 19 November 1993), households are regarded as being engaged in commodity production when at least 60 percent of a product is sold at the market.] In the Mekong Delta, for example in An Giang Province, only 10 percent of the households are engaged in commodity production while 50 percent are engaged in self-sufficient production. In mountainous provinces such as Son La, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Yen Bai, and Ha Giang, only 1-3 percent of the households are engaged in commodity production. The great majority are engaged in self-sufficient production.

The amount of land available for agricultural production is declining, and it is not distributed evenly. Because of the heavy population density, the per capita amount of land is very low. In the Red River Delta and along the coast, the average is only about 0.1 mau per person. In the mountain areas, the average is higher, but this is mainly steep mountains and bare hills. Also, the land that is being reclaimed here is not being used in a rational manner. The forests and coastal areas are being overly exploited, which is depleting our natural resources and destroying the ecological environment.

Small industry made its appearance in the rural areas very early with a number of traditional occupations. But it has developed very slowly and in some periods has disappeared entirely. To date, small industry and services in the rural areas are still regarded as secondary occupations to provide work for the surplus laborers and farmers during the off-season. Such jobs still account for only a small fraction of the jobs. Except for a number of occupations, in most rural areas, only about 20 percent of the laborers specialize in, or are engaged primarily in, small industries and services. The traditional occupations have been renovated and developed somewhat during the switch to a market economy, but the speed of this is very slow, and technical levels, skills, and labor productivity are very low. Commercial and service activities are penetrating the hamlets and villages, but they are uncoordinated and spontaneous.

The rapid increase in the population and the increasing number of surplus laborers is a characteristic that needs to be given much attention. Even though many programs and measures have been implemented to reduce the population growth rate, the natural population growth rate in the rural areas is still very high (usually 2-3 percent a year). Because of this, the number of surplus laborers is growing larger every year. Many large cities have witnessed the spontaneous formation of a number of labor markets of people from nearby rural areas coming to look for work.

The weak infrastructure is both a reflection of the low socioeconomic standards of the rural areas and a basic reason why industry, services, and, in particular, the commodity economy and commerce in the rural areas are still underdeveloped, particularly in the highlands and remote areas. The roads to the rural villages are too narrow, and usually these are just dirt roads or poorly paved roads. Very few villages have asphalt roads to the hamlets. Many villages (approximately 330 villages) in the highlands and remote areas do not have any roads for vehicles. And in the lowlands, only about 50-60 percent of the villages have electricity. In the mountains, few of the rural villages have electricity. Many areas lack a system to supply clean water for daily life and fresh water for crop cultivation. This is particularly true in the mountain areas and in the Mekong Delta. The information and liaison system is in general still very weak. The telephone system reaches only a few villages located near large urban centers.

The living conditions of the peasants have generally improved, but their standard of living is still low. Only about 10 percent of the households have been classified as prosperous (incomes of 10-20 million dong per year). Even though many changes and advances have been made since we switched to a market economy, 40-50 percent of the production households do not have enough to eat, and even in provinces in the Red River Delta, the figure is about 40 percent. In An Giang, a province located in the rice bowl of the Mekong Delta, only about 50 percent of the households have enough to eat. In the mountain areas, 60-80 percent of the production households do not have enough to eat. The cultural and spiritual life is still poor. As for the intellectual standards of the people in the rural areas, even though much progress has been made as compared with before, in many places things are still very backward. About 20-30 percent of the people are still illiterate or semiliterate, with the percentage reaching 50 percent in the mountain areas. In lowland rural areas, only 20-30 percent of the people have general, middle, and vocational school standards, and in the mountain areas only a few percent of the people have such standards.

This socioeconomic situation in the rural areas requires active solutions to develop and change the face of the rural areas. At the same time, this poses objective requirements. There must be methods to formulate industrialization policies and choose the most suitable steps.

In my view, in order to carry on industrialization and economic development in our country's rural areas in the next 10-20 years, the following viewpoints must be understood thoroughly:

First, industrializing the rural areas must have the direct participation of the laborers and the people living in the rural areas. The state must carry on key investment activities in order to create the basic and necessary conditions and implement policies to encourage all the people to gradually carry on industrialization. Thus, in industrializing the rural areas, we must mobilize and stimulate the growth of all elements and economic forces and maintain the multiform nature of that process. But we must give particular attention to the sources of strength on the spot and to the special characteristics and strengths of each locality.

Second, today, at a time when the world is switching to developing the service sectors and the third economic zone is occupying a more and more important position, industrializing our country's rural areas must expand and develop both industry and services. Encouraging and promoting close economic ties between agricultural and industrial activities and commercial and service activities in one organization or one economic unit will bring greater results and be in accord with the trend toward varying the commercial formulas in the new age.

Third, industrialization cannot be separated from urbanization. Human history shows that urbanization is usually stronger than and has a cause-and-effect relationship with industrialization. Thus, industrializing the rural areas must be tied to promoting and planning the growth of urbanization in our country. Building a network of cities to form poles that can serve as a catalyst for rural economic development is an objective need in the industrialization process. Our country's system of cities must be formed based on having cities of various sizes. In this, the key is to promote the expansion of a network of small but civilized and modern cities in the various areas, ensure an even distribution of labor and population, and avoid concentrating people in large cities, which is a problem that has been encountered by a number of neighboring countries that have been carrying on industrialization.

Fourth, industrializing the rural areas must be carried on with optimum coordination between advanced and traditional technical standards, with priority given to relatively advanced technology. However, with respect to the scale of commercial production, we must follow the principle of moving from the small to the large in accord with our potential concerning capital and commercial management capabilities. Various types of medium-sized and small enterprises must be developed in the rural areas, and close economic ties must be forged with large enterprises in nearby cities and even in other countries. At the same time, steps must be taken to ensure that they have the capability to grow and become large enterprises.

Fifth, the history of the formation and development of Vietnam's rural areas shows that the village is a a stable socioeconomic community in many respects. During the past several decades, there have been many changes, but the rural political-social system, with its foundation being the village (hamlets and mountain villages), has not changed at all. In switching to a market economy, this village system must be brought into clearer focus. The Vietnamese village is a geographical, political, economic, and cultural community. In reality, the country's present development must inherit and creatively develop the existing traditions. Thus, industrializing the rural areas in our country must begin in, and be carried out in, the hamlets and villages. Industrialization and urbanization based on "leaving the fields but not leaving the village" and greatly expanding the system of "rural enterprises" is a suitable viewpoint that must be studied and used.

In order to promote this and achieve good results, the state must implement policies to actively help the peasants, agriculture, and the rural areas.

There must be a policy to create markets, particularly output markets. The greatest difficulty for farmers, agriculture, and the rural areas in switching to commodity production and transforming the present economic structure is output markets. But to promote rural industrialization, the first step is to implement measures to encourage transforming the rural economic structure to commodity production. The state must implement positive measures to create stable output markets for the superior products of an agricultural economy. These markets are not limited to the country or to a particular locality but are international markets. Thus, only the state gives us the capabilities to establish these markets through open policies in foreign economic relations and through a system of strong state corporations and companies. On the other hand, we must encourage and stimulate economic interchanges, cooperation, and close economic ties between the large industrial, commercial, and service entities in the cities and the small agricultural, industrial, commercial, and service entities in the rural areas.

The state must conduct studies and formulate plans to expand the network of large and small cities nationwide. This must be done for each region and for each province and district. At the same time, it must gradually invest in building the infrastructure, distribute arable land and grant land-use rights, and guide the people in building houses, offices, production workshops, stores, and shops based on a unified plan.

In order to expand the network of cities, expand economic interchanges and ties, expand cooperation between the rural and urban areas, and carry on rural industrialization well, a very urgent task is to invest in developing the infrastructure, with priority given to electrifying the communications and transportation and information systems for the rural economic zones. Mobilizing investment capital should be carried on based on the formula "the state and people working together." However, only the state has the financial capability to invest in building the main road and landline systems and stations linking the large urban centers with the small cities and villages.

The state must implement policies to actively raise the people's standard of culture, to train people and expand the sources of manpower for rural industrialization, and to effectively acquire advanced technology. The state must invest much more in education and cultural development in the rural areas, particularly in highland and remote areas where the people's standard of culture is still very low.

The process of transferring technology to the rural economic zones must be carried out well. Along with investing in order to increase people's knowledge and improve their skills and commercial knowledge, the state must provide help in order to gradually transfer technology to the rural, economic zones. A system of advisory centers must be established to help transfer technology to the rural areas and guide the acceptance of foreign technology and to help select suitable technology in each period.

Favorable tax and credit policies should be implemented to expand medium-sized and small enterprises in the spheres of industry, commerce, and services. Taxes should be waived on commodity products from rural industrial zones, investment in the industrial processing spheres should be promoted, and techniques that can attract many laborers on the spot should be used. Priority should be given to waiving taxes on the small industrial products produced in the rural zones, particularly new products produced using advanced technology. The state should invest in establishing centers that provide financial and credit help at favorable rates of interest to support rural development in general and rural and agricultural industrialization in particular. At the same time, various forms of credit and self-established credit organizations should be permitted and encouraged in order to help expand the enterprises and to help use the new technology and transform occupations and the economic structure in the villages. On the other hand, a system of credit insurance organizations must be created to serve the rural areas.

The legal system must be improved, and propagating and disseminating the laws and state control activities must be strengthened to support rural industrialization. Steps must be taken to strengthen controlling the implementation of the policies and laws by the various-echelon authorities and by the people and businessmen. Administrative activities must be renovated, administrative procedures must be simplified, and the procedures for organizing and registering commercial activities, issuing occupational permits, establishing enterprises, and constructing workshops, stores, shops, and cooperative teams must simplified.

New Zealand

New Zealand: Abolition of Appeal to British Privy Council Studied

LD0904102196 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The New Zealand Government says it will introduce legislation soon to abolish the right to make appeals to Britain's Privy Council in court cases. The attorney-general, Paul East, said cabinet decided that it was appropriate for the final court of appeal to be New Zealand based.

New Zealanders have had the right since 1841 to make appeals to the Privy Council, which comprises British cabinet ministers and eminent people from member countries of the Commonwealth. A report prepared last year by New Zealand's solicitor-general, John McGrath, said New Zealand was the largest of 16 small countries which still use the Privy Council. The report said that in recent years the right of appeal to the Privy Council had been abolished by 33 Commonwealth countries including Australia, Canada, India and, Malaysia.

Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands: Bougainville Independence Support Viewed

BK1204072796 Hong Kong AFP in English 0549 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Honiara, April 12 (AFP) — Police Minister Victor Ngele claimed Friday some Solomons cabinet ministers and government members of parliament were actively supporting independence for Papua New Guinea's (PNG) war torn province of Bougainville.

He said they could have been harbouring and helping rebel Bougainvilleans and said the attitude was frustrating Solomons attempts to be neutral.

Bougainville is across narrow straits from the Solomon islands of Shortlands and Choiseul.

The Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) has waged a bloody conflict in the mineral-rich island province for about seven years after a row over sharing profits from a rich copper mine turned violent.

Last month PNG Defence Minister Mathias Ijape warned that his country's troops would cross the border in "hot pursuit."

He demanded full cooperation from the Solomons and added: "...all we ask for is for the Solomon Islands not to make its soil a hide-out and criminal haven, because if that is so we will make hell for them."

Ngele said the pro-Bougainville independence MPs had helped Australian lawyer Rosemarie Gillespie to get in and out of Bougainville on two occasions without being caught by border patrols from both PNG and the Solomons.

Ngele would not name supporters.

However Provincial Government Minister Allan Qurusu and senior government backbencher Albert Laore have previously spoken in support of Bougainville.

Ngele said the open support for an independent Bougainville has been frustrating "our policy to stay neutral in the Bougainville issue.

"The same policy says that we recognise Bougainville as a part of Papua New Guinea and that we should be helping Port Moresby in its efforts to resolve the Bougainville crisis."

He noted a previous government in the Solomons had helped broker peace talks in 1994 in the Bougainville town of Arawa. This had led to a cease fire.

PNG Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan recently declared the cease fire lifted.

Earlier this week Qurusu threatened that he, Laore and a junior backbencher representing one of the three Choiseul seats, could consider leaving the government of Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni.

He said they want Foreign Minister Danny Philip to get an assurance from Port Moresby that Bougainville-based Papua New Guinea Defence soldiers and their Bougainville supporters do not attack Solomon Islanders.

"Our people are now living in fear following the recent announcement by (Ijape) that his soldiers would not hesitate to cross the border into Solomon Islands territory in hot pursuit of BRA soldiers and their elements.

"They did kill a number of people in the Shortlands and did destroy properties in both Shortlands and Choiseul before, and there is no guarantee these acts of violence cannot be repeated in our two islands."

Ngele has assured them that the islanders are safe.

Additional security personnel have been deployed to the border since a recent raid by supporters of the PNG Defence Forces on a Catholic centre at Moli in Choiseul and as a result of the Ijape announcement.

Ngele said the additional men had been sent not to fight PNG soldiers but to ensure that there were no illegal border crossings.

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office, Hugh Paia, said because of the end of the ceasefire planned border talks with PNG here later this month may not now take place.

He said a conclusive border arrangement can only be expected when the tense situation is eased and traditional leaders from Choiseul and Shortland are involved in the talks.

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